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Inter-Arab Affairs

Libya Reportedly Halts Egypt-Sudan Mediation

NC1708085291 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Aug 91 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Libya's mediation between Egypt and Sudan has come to a halt following a sudden deterioration in Libyan-Sudanese relations. According to well-informed diplomatic sources in Cairo, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has abandoned his attempts to persuade President Husni Mubarak to meet with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's ruling military council, in order to narrow differences between Cairo and Khartoum.

According to the sources, al-Qadhdhafi recently sent a strongly worded message to Lt. Gen. al-Bashir informing him of his dissatisfaction over the control the Islamic Front, led by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, exercises over the country. The sources also noted that there have been acute shortages of gasoline in Sudan since the beginning of the month due to the reduction of Libyan oil supplies to Sudan.

The sources also note that Ethiopian-Sudanese relations have cooled considerably following the new Ethiopian Government's decision to allow John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Army to resume military and political activities in the Gambela area near the Sudanese border. The Ethiopian regime has also revived its ties with Sudan's national and democratic opposition groups and allowed them to reopen their offices in Ethiopia.

Maghreb Committee Assesses Union's 'Major Strides'

LD1708140591 Rabat MAP in English 1215 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Rabat, Aug 17 (MAP)—The 17th session of the follow up committee of the Secretariat General of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) wound up thursday here its meeting with the endorsement of the report on the committee's past actions, assessment of the major strides accomplished in the edification of the Maghreban Union and a review of results reached within the Maghreban ministerial commissions. In an address to the session, Moroccan minister in charge of relations with the parliament and UMA affairs Abdesslam Barakat underlined the progress and major steps made by the Maghreban Union in matters of complementarity and economic integration. "This will help materialize the dreams and wishes of the Maghreban people", the Moroccan minister said, calling for more efforts to achieve the goals UMA was set for.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Indicates Hopes on Gorbachev Departure

AU1908133791 Paris AFP in English 1257 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Tunis, Aug 19 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] on Monday said it hoped the departure of Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev would resolve the problem of Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel.

"We hope that this step will help to solve the tragic internal problems facing the Soviet Union, including mass migration ... and specially Jewish emigration, which affects the search for a just solution in the Middle East and the Palestinian question," PLO executive committee member Yasir 'Abd-al-Rabbuh told AFP.

Arab and Palestinian leaders fear that the thousands of Soviet Jews expected in Israel in the next few years will eventually be settled on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where Palestinians hope one day to establish their homeland.

Another Palestinian leader, echoing the sentiments of Arabs living under Israeli occupation, said the ouster of Gorbachev will enable the Palestinians "to get their confidence back".

"The Palestinian cause has suffered too much from U.S. domination of the world," explained Taysir Qubba'ah of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. "The Soviet Union, which was the principle ally of liberation movements, has in the last few years lost ground to the United States, which is now the world's only superpower."

'Arafat Interviewed on Arab Relations, Palestine

Part One

JN1508200091

[Editorial Report] Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic at 1732 GMT on 15 August carries the "first part" of a recorded interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Ghassan Abu-Hamad and Widad 'Alam-al-Din in Tunis. No date is given for the interview.

In the interview, 'Arafat reviewed the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. He added: "The plot now is aimed against Jerusalem. Shamir even refuses to accept a representative from Jerusalem—and then he says Jerusalem should not be included in the talks. Then they fool us by saying, alright, only in the first phase. Is there a second phase?"

Referring to Jerusalem, 'Arafat said: "This is the place from which the Prophet Muhammad, God's blessings and peace be upon him, journeyed to heaven. It is the cradle of the Christ, peace be upon him. Nobody sells it.

I say: I will not sell. Whatever Arab want to sell, let him do so. History will show no mercy.'"

Asked if he feels isolated because of his stand on the Gulf crisis, 'Arafat replied: "I see no isolation. If by isolated you mean that some leaders are not happy with me because I did not agree with them on striking Iraq, then by God I welcome this isolation. I am proud of this isolation."

After stressing that the people and leadership inside and outside the occupied territories are one, 'Arafat said: "Those far and near must understand that the basic and major factor in the Middle East equation is the Palestinian factor." "Peace is Palestinian peace, and without Palestinian peace, there will be no peace in the region. This peace is based on achieving the Palestinian people's national rights."

Turning to the political objective of the intifadah, 'Arafat said: "The political objective of the blessed intifadah is the state, which is the same objective it has always had, and will continue to be this same objective, whether there are now political initiatives or political maneuvers whose objective is to cover the American position or some Arab position. There will only be one thing regarding the objective, whether in the short- or long-term; namely the Palestinian state, whose flag will flutter high over the walls of Jerusalem, the churches of Jerusalem, and the minarets of Jerusalem." 'Arafat added: "Regrettably, the current settlement is aimed at excluding Jerusalem."

Answering a question on the possibility of declaring a provisional government, 'Arafat said: "The truth is that if we now see that such a declaration would serve the process under these circumstances, we would do so. You cannot declare a government that will not be recognized. When we declared the state, 127 states recognized it. I can thus declare a government which some Arabs now do not recognize."

Part Two

JN1608195591

[Editorial Report] Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic at 1722 GMT on 16 August carries the "second part" of a recorded interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Ghassan Abu-Hamad and Widad 'Alam-al-Din in Tunis. No date is given for the interview.

In the interview, 'Arafat defined the PLO's position in Arab and international relations and the Palestinian intifadah's current role and activities in the occupied territories.

Asked about the socialist states' failure to support the PLO in the international arena and whether he had expected the possibility that such a "strategic ally" would suddenly become absent, 'Arafat said: "Of course, no, I was not the only one who did not expect this; none of the Third World countries expected this. The Arab states did not expect this. I cannot say, however, that their role has become completely absent, but I can say that it role has been reduced. We still have good and continuing relations with many of these former socialist states, which are now called Eastern European states. Some of these relations are developed. We are now trying to reach new prospects of cooperation with these states. Some of these states have resumed relations with Israel. This is one of the waves [mawjat]. If we may say, this is one of the IMF's conditions for extending aid to either these Eastern European states or to Third World countries. There is U.S. and some European pressure, through this international body, to recognize Israel, and consequently to force these banks to help these states. We still have good relations. Do not forget that the USSR is a co-chairman [preceding word in English] of the conference scheduled to be convened in the Middle East. We have good and continuing relations with the USSR."

Concerning the PLO's relations with the EC, and U.S. pressure on the EC, 'Arafat said: "The U.S. pressure is continuing, but it so far has not been able to reduce or influence the EC's commitments, whether as a whole or on the individual state level, to the PLO and the Palestinian question. A recent EC statement calls for commitment to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The EC deals officially, on all levels, with the PLO. In fact, I can say that there are surprises in the EC's position regarding support for Palestinian rights and the cause of the Palestinian people. Frankly speaking, among the things that surprised me is the Belgian Government's positive position. Recently, I have been able to say that the British Government's current position has improved over that which it held in previous times." 'Arafat also speaks in detail about the history of relations between France and former French leaders and the PLO.

In this part of the interview, 'Arafat also speaks in detail about the history of the Palestinian intifadah, its activities and accomplishments in the international arena. Asked about the PLO's relations with the Palestinian group Hamas, 'Arafat says: "Hamas is one of the Palestinian organizations, and it is represented in the Palestine National Council. I do not know why people make a big issue of it. I know why, because there is a fundamentalist trend in the Arab region, particularly since the Gulf war. This trend exists in Hamas, in the Islamic Jihad, the Islamic al-Tahrir Party, and the other fundamentalist movements. However, those far and near must know that Hamas is present in the Palestinian arena, within the framework of the Palestinian pluralism we believe in. Just as the Communist Party has the right to exist, Hamas has the right to exist, and the Jihad organization has the right to exist. Here lies the strength of the Palestinian march. Of course, no one ignores this, and I also say that Hamas is not an ordinary organization but is part of the Muslim Brotherhood organization that emerged during the intifadah."

Asked about the impact of the economic collapse on the Palestinian intifadah, 'Arafat says that, regrettably, the Arabs have been more generous to General Schwarzkopf and his troops than to the people of the intifadah.

When asked how long stones will continue to be the intifadah's only weapon, 'Arafat says: "Patience has limits. I am saying this now to those who are perpetrating brutal crimes—the Israel Army, the Israeli Police, and armed Israeli settlers—against our people, children, and women. I tell them that patience has limits. The decision so far has been not to use weapons. However, patience has limits."

Part Three

JN1708194991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1727 GMT 17 Aug 91

["Third and final" installment of interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ammar, by Ghassan Abu-Hamad and Widad 'Alam al-Din in Tunis; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Abu-Hamad] What about Arab relations?

['Arafat] Well, Ghassan, this is the most difficult topic to address, because, if one wants to be honest, mind you, this is a problem; and if one remains silent, it is also a problem. So, do you mean to put me on the spot?

[Abu-Hamad] For more than half a century, Palestine has been one of the major axes of Arab differences. The Palestinian revolution was part of some of these disputes; the longest, most bitter, the most prominent of which was the Palestinian-Syrian dispute. The estrangement, brother Abu-'Ammar, has lasted for so long. What do you...

['Arafat, interrupting] No, the most prominent of these disputes is the Palestinian dispute with some Lebanese brothers. I am very happy that I have stanched this bleeding wound between myself and all my Lebanese brothers. There is now a unified Lebanese stance, from the far right to the far left, and all segments of the Lebanese people have sided with the Palestinian people. Therefore, I was careful in the past not to make the heavy Palestinian weapons a bone of contention between me and my Lebanese brothers, because the U.S.-Israeli objective was to once again entangle us in a hellish circle through a Palestinian-Lebanese conflict. But, thank God, it has ended, and I have presented the heavy weapons to my brothers in the Lebanese Army. I will not allow this file to be reopened. Today, thank God, the Palestinian-Lebanese relationship is good and solid, and I am proud of it.

As for the Syrian issue, there was a dispute at times because my brothers in Syria believed that I was challenging their presence in Lebanon. I am not their rival. They are in Lebanon, while I am outside Lebanon. This is what happened. As for saying that we sought at a certain time to reach a settlement with the Israeli enemy, I think that the recent events and resolutions provide an answer to that. Our position is clear, and the position of others is also clear.

[Abu-Hamad] You mean we should be optimistic that a solution will be reached, or have you severed all links?

['Arafat] Thank God, we have not severed our contacts with anyone. You see, even my brothers in the Gulf, Hani al-Hasan is frequently visiting them. He, and other brothers, are tasked with that mission. We do not sever links with anyone. Until tonight, our delegation was still there on their second visit. This relationship and dialogue will continue because we want to have a precise understanding. The relationship between ourselves and the Syrians is not a matter of establishing contacts; it is more important than that. It has to do with principles.

We have a position on the Palestine question. Where do we and they stand in relation to the Palestine question? Where does Jerusalem figure in our perspective and theirs? Where is the Palestinian state, from our standpoint and theirs? Where is the Palestinian people's right to self-determination? Eight and six and a half [number as heard] million Palestinians have the right to self-determination—don't they? Consider this Israeli presence, which is increasing through Jewish immigration. They say that in the year 85 [number as heard], three million Jews will have arrived in the occupied territories. They will swallow up the entire land with their settlements. Does this mean that these three million new arrivals are directed against Palestinians, as I have told you earlier, sister Widad and brother Ghassan? I told you that Israel wants to establish a greater Israel. The Zionist movement is backed by this U.S. alliance, which does not say no to it but always appeases it, and the U.S. noes are always in harmony with the Israeli noes; U.S. desires are always in harmony with Israeli desires. All the pressure is focused solely on the Arabs and Palestinians. [passage omitted]

['Alam-al-Din] What characterizes the Palestinian relationship with Jordan and specifically with King Husayn?

['Arafat] As is known, the Palestine National Council has said that the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship is a unique relationship, whether on the level of the Jordanian and Palestinian people or the relationship between the Palestinian leadership and the Jordanian leadership under His Majesty King Husayn. As is also known, the Council adopted a resolution in Algiers in 1984, no, actually it was made in 1983, then it confirmed this resolution in Amman and in Algiers, and also another time in Algiers, that the objective is the establishment of the independent Palestinian state and the establishment of confederal Jordanian-Palestinian relations, by way of the voluntary and free choice of both the Palestinian and Jordanian people. In addition to this, there are Palestinian-Jordanian relations, ties, and bonds which came to life many years ago between the Jordanian and Palestinian people, throughout history, during the Canaanite and the Ottoman eras, as well as during the mandate, and after the tragedy that befell the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Hammad] Abu-'Ammar, where is the Palestinian cause right now?

['Arafat] There is no doubt that we are now at an important, historic, and fateful turning point. This juncture is a result of the fact that this Israeli enemy, supported by its allies, whether the U.S. Administration or some Europeans, and after the demise of the Soviet Union, the superpower, and its withdrawal from the international arena as a major factor of influence—it is still a factor of influence, but not a major one—and the emergence of one superpower in the world, the new Rome, the United States. Since the Gulf war, they have been seeking to benefit from the atmosphere, from the serious, difficult, destructive, and bloody repercussions in the Arab body; they now seek to benefit from this atmosphere, which was brought about by the Gulf war, to impose a new reality on the Palestinian cause, the Palestinian reality, and the Arab reality—in other words, impose their conditions on the entire Arab nation. This was expressed in many U.S. and Israeli statements and the statements of some European officials.

I would like to say that, faced with this development, and all the other developments that are now taking place, we must be extremely cautious and alert so that we do not give our enemies an opportunity with which to liquidate the Palestinian cause. If they succeed in doing so, they will be able to fulfill their dream, the establishment of a Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. [passage omitted]

AL-FAJR Views 'Arafat Interview, U.S. Moves

TA1608173691 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 15 Aug 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The U.S. Moves and the Palestinian Constants"]

[Text] In a lengthy interview with Radio Monte Carlo that will be broadcast today, President Yasir 'Arafat dotted the i's and crossed the t's with regard to the U.S. political moves in the Middle East and the limits of the Palestinians' ability to deal with these moves against the background of Palestinian national constants.

The Palestinians' dealing with those moves through the meetings of a delegation of Palestinian personalities and the U.S. secretary of state is essentially based on a strong Palestinian position, not so much enabling it to realize the Palestinian people's wishes and aspirations as to foil any settlement that does not respond to these aspirations.

As president 'Arafat said, if the U.S. aim behind the current political moves is to impose a new Camp David on the Palestinians and separate the Arab-Israeli conflict from its real core, represented by the Palestinian problem, that aim will not be achieved and will not meet with success as long as it is rejected by the Palestinian side.

The PLO agreed to deal with the U.S. moves not because it is convinced of the sincerity and seriousness of these moves, but to play the game from within and deprive Israel of the opportunity to say no, not with its own tongue, but with that of the Palestinians.

On the other hand, during those meetings, the PLO succeeded in imposing itself as a major and essential party to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is difficult now, if not impossible, for any party to exclude the PLO from this process. The PLO has achieved all these political gains without making a single concession on its basic constants and its red lines that guarantee the realization of all the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. As 'Arafat has affirmed, the Palestinians do not wish to appear before the world as a party that hinders the process of a peaceful, just, and comprehensive settlement at a time when Israeli, U.S., and even Arab campaigns of incitement against them and their legitimate representative are escalating; rather, they want to say yes to peace, but within the context of the Palestinian viewpoint and content, based on the rights approved by the international community for the Palestinians.

Regardless of what results might emanate from the current peace efforts in the Middle East, what we wish to stress and everyone to heed is that peace will not be achieved in the Middle East without the acceptance of the Palestinians, and the Palestinians will not accept less than the realization of their complete, undiminished legitimate rights, which are repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent with Jerusalem as its capital.

'Arafat Receives Jordanian Government Message

LD1508205991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received an important letter from the Jordanian government when he met with Haydar Mahmud, the Jordanian ambassador in Tunis, yesterday. The letter concerns the current developments in the Middle East relating to the settlement steps and the firm Jordanian position on them.

The ambassador conveyed greetings from King Husayn and the Jordanian government to brother president Abu-'Ammar. He noted that together we face this destiny which requires us to engage in the same battle defending our common destiny. He said that His Majesty King Husayn believes in the importance of the continuation and intensification of joint cooperation and coordination at all levels. [passage omitted]

'Arafat, Algierian Minister Meet on Peace

LD1608185191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Yesterday evening Brother Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], leader of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, received Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Ibrahimi. They discussed developments concerning the peace process, the Algerian and Arab Maghreb countries' role in protecting Jerusalem and its holy places and in supporting Palestinian national rights. They also reviewed the importance of Arab coordination among all the parties concerned with the peace process with a view to preserving national and Arab rights in the peace process—foremost of which are the Palestinian peoples' rights in accordance with international legitimacy—and insistence on Israel's withdrawal from Arab and Palestinian territories, including holy Jerusalem.

'Arafat Appeals to Archbishop of Canterbury

LD1808211191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Aug 91

["Message" of Brother Abu-Ammar, Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, to Lord Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury on 18 Aug]

[Text] Blessed greetings. And now to the issue: I appeal to Your Beatitude at these difficult and fateful moments being experienced by our people and Holy Land—at which the future of the Christians and Mulsims in this land is being determined, the land that was supposed to be and continues to be the land of peace, the land of coexistence among the three heavenly religions—which is witnessing accelerating moves by the United States as part of the so-called steps of the peace settlement in the region.

We are now before an attempt aimed at normalizing Arab-Israeli relations; consecrating the existing reality by submitting to Israel's blackmail, Judaizing and annexing Jerusalem and considering it the capital of the State of Israel; and excluding any Palestinian representatives from East Jerusalem from negotiating at the peace conference now being discussed. This means subjecting those Christians and Muslims who remained in this holy city to expulsion, displacement, and the effects of immigration. The holy places would then become mere museums and tourist attractions in want of believers. This is happening is at the expense of the Palestinian people, their just cause and holy places.

You know very well that this Israeli plan—which also includes the expropriation of land, the establishment of settlements, and the housing of new immigrants in them—means the swallowing up of our land and the Islamic and Christian holy places. You are more knowledgeable as to what happened to the property of the church in Jerusalem and other places at the hands of Israeli settlers, with the open and public support of the forces of the Israeli occupation. This plan also means depriving our people of exercising their legitimate right to self-determination, national independence, and freedom provided for by all international charters and custom—a matter that contradicts international legitimacy and its resolutions and gives legitimacy to Israeli occupation.

From my knowledge of your appreciation of the status that the Holy Land, Jerusalem, and its people, I appeal to you to use your influence with the U.S. Government to prevent the U.S. President from letting himself to be seduced, to be held responsible before history for the Judaization of Jerusalem and emptying it of its Christian and Muslim inhabitants, as a step on the road to emptying the remainder of the Holy Land—in Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur, Hebron, and others—from holy places. This is a matter that will constitute in the end a strengthening of narrow religious fanaticism and a violation of the prescriptions of all the heavenly laws, international legitimacy, and its resolutions.

Our steadfast Palestinian people—inside and outside our Holy Land, the blessed land of Palestine, land of fraternity, tolerance, and coexistence—look to you to stand by them in these difficult times, in the same way that you always stand by right and justice, raising your voice loud to warn against the danger of being dragged behind this Israeli plan. Because, as in the saying of Jesus—peace by upon him: What good is it for man to win the whole world and lose himself?

The time factor is important. I beg you in the name of our struggling people—who are proceeding along the Via Dolorosa, carrying their deep love for their land and holy places, defending them and ready to sacrifice for them all that is dear and precious—not to allow this crime to take place, in order to prevent this cause being placed in the hands of sinners. Your word will undoubtedly help guide those who do not now realize the seriousness of the exclusion of Jerusalem—as a cause and as its citizens—from all the stages of the settlement, in preparation for its recognition as the capital of the State of Israel.

I beseech God to bless your steps, and hope that you accept my utmost respect and appreciation. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill toward men.

'Arafat Receives British Parliamentarian

LD1608194891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Yesterday evening the brother leader President Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received British member of Parliament David Steel, former leader of the Liberal Party. Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO's Political Department, and the British Ambassador in Tunis Stephen Day also attended the meeting.

They discussed developments in the current situation and moves undertaken in the framework of the so-called peace process in accordance with Israel's conditions and not international legitimacy, the UN Security Council resolutions, or the UN General Assembly. They also discussed the possibility of Europe playing a positive role in the peace process, in a way that would ensure that the Palestinian people would regain their legitimate rights as stipulated by the United Nations and would find a just solution to the Palestine issue—which is the essence of the conflict in the region. The participants also reviewed the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and Israel's savage oppressive practices against our Palestinian people which aim to end their valiant intifadah.

'Arafat Appeals to Al-Birah Conference in U.S.

LD1808190191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Aug 91

["Text" of Yasir 'Arafat message to the Union of al-Birah Associations" on the occasion of their annual conference in the United States"; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Brothers in the Union of al-Birah Associations; dear brothers, presidency and members of the conference, warm greetings:

It pleases me to seize this opportunity of your annual conference to send you, and in the name of your kinfolk and the sons of your people in steadfast al-Birah, and all over Palestine and outside it, in the name of my brother members of the Executive Committee of the PLO, and in my name personally, the warmest greetings and best wishes for the success of your conference toward the service of the hopes and aspirations of our Palestinian people.

Your conference is being held during one of the most critical and serious stages our our people and their just struggle have experienced. They are being subjected to various and very severe forms of organized official oppression and terrorism by the forces of the Israeli occupation. The blessed intifadah continues regardless of the heavy sacrifices and despite the oppression, persecution, and the daily crimes commited against it; despite the fall of hundreds of martyrs and thousands of injured, handicapped, prisoners, and detainees; and despite the difficult economic conditions which your people are suffering, conditions that have reached the level of famine in steadfast Gaza and economic catastrophe in the whole of the occupied territories.

The blessed intifadah enters its 45th month stronger, firmer, and with stronger momentum, reflecting the fact that it is the best lantern of freedom in the history of the people's struggle for their dignity, sovereignty, and independence. It also reflects our people's resolve to end the Israeli occupation of their land and sanctities, and to recover and practice their inalienable national rights—at the fore of which is the right to self-determination.

Therefore, beloved brothers, we welcomed the initiative President Bush announced on 6 March; we facilitated Secretary of State Baker's mission, and we demonstrated adequate flexibility to ensure the success of the efforts to realize a just settlement based on respecting the resolutions of international legitimacy which called for ending the Israeli occupation of our land and respecting our people's right to self-determination. During its moves in the area, however, the U.S. Government put forward a programmed settlement with two agendas that serves its strategy in the area and the interests of Israel at the expense of our nation and the national rights of our people, their existance, and their future.

The first agenda aims at the normalization of Arab-Israeli relations, which has been expressed in the call for the abolition of the Arab boycott of Israel. The second agenda concerns the Palestine issue, in which the U.S. Administration completely submits to the Israeli Government's conditions of rejecting the participation of the PLO in the peace process and insisting on the exclusion of Jerusalem—in form, issue, and representation—from the possible negotiations, which will provide legitimacy to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, and encourage Israel to swallow and Judaize more land, build more settlements, and settle thousands of new Jewish emigrants in them. This constitutes a blatant and disgraceful violation of international legitimacy and law, and of peace in the world and the region. It also constitutes a threat to our people and nation, and a persistent violation of our Islamic and Christian sanctities.

Dear beloved, this fateful and critical situation that we are all facing requires that our beloved brothers, the sons of the Palestinian communities abroad and in the United States particularly, redouble their efforts to offer every kind of support to our people inside the occupied land to help them by providing them with everything required for steadfastness, so that they will be able to continue their tremendous national resistance under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, to end the Israeli occupation of their land and their sanctities, and to establish their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

You are aware that national duty and struggle require that you also intensify your activities at all levels to gain U.S. public support for your just cause, and to form a force to put pressure on the U.S. Government to recognize the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our people, and recognize their inalienable national rights to realize their liberty, independence, and sovereignty.

While I reaffirm to you my hearty and warm greetings, I pray to God to help you all succeed and crown the work of your conference with success in a way that would bring benefit to your sacred cause. Together until victory to liberated Jerusalem, with God's help. It is revolution until victory. [passage omitted]

[Signed] Your brother, Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]

Fatah, PFLP, DFLP Agree on Participation

JN1808175691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], revealed today that the main PLO factions—the Fatah Movement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and the DFLP—have reached common ground on the main points concerning Palestinian participation in the peace conference. These points include the insistence on the PLO's right to represent the Palestinian people with a delegation from inside and outside Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, without any external interference or pressure.

Hawatimah noted the failure to draw up a joint paper to present to the preparatory committee of the Palestine National Council, due to convene in Algiers in mid-September.

Executive Committee Member Comments on Peace

JN1708205091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Mustafa Barkri report carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Reacting to an official Jordanian source's statement regarding Jordan's intention to go to the peace conference regardless of whether the Palestinians attend, PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani said that Jordan is entitled to attend as an independent country. Al Surani noted that Jordan has, however, stressed that it will not be a substitute for the Palestinians nor speak for them.

Emerging from talks with Egypt's foreign minister at noon today, al-Surani said Palestinian attendance at the peace conference is a key issue on which the United States has yet to finalize its position. The peace conference should set out to work toward the implementation of UN resolutions, especially Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which stipulate an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab land, the establishment of a Palestinian state, and security for all parties.

Noting that the Arabs are united on the Palestinian question, al-Surani added that the Arab states have subscribed to the resolutions passed by the Islamic Conference Organization's foreign ministers conference recently held in Turkey. He stressed the need for Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians to convene a meeting to coordinate moves ahead of the peace conference. The PLO official criticized U.S. aid to Israel as long as it continues to build settlements. He declared that immigration and settlement activity must be brought to an immediate halt, if there is a true desire to achieve peace.

'Informed Source' Views U.S.-Israeli 'Formula'

NC1608130291 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 14 Aug 91 p 1

[Unattributed "exclusive" report]

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem—AL-AHALI has learned from an informed source who took part in the dialogue with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that the formula evisaged by the United States and Israel, which would culminate in local elections in the occupied Palestinian territories, is based on the following principles:

1. Arab states will not hinder the abrogation of the UN General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism. This resolution will be replaced with one describing Zionism as a national liberation movement;

2. The PLO will be entitled to select the members of the Palestinian delegation, but will not be permitted to participate directly. This is seen by Palestinians as an attempt to end the PLO's role as the sole representative of the Palestinian people;

3. Arab-Israeli relations will be normalized in return for Israel's promise to stop building settlements; and,

4. The question of the security of all the region's countries, including Israel, should be addressed.

Syrian Awareness of Pan-Arab Role Questioned

LD1608214791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, viewed analytically, Washington has a real interest in reaching a lasting peace in the region. By closing the Middle East file with a comprehensive solution that meets the bottom-line interests of all, these parties—Arab and Israeli—will be able to defend the new regional order. Betting on the United States' seriousness and on Washington's interests in reaching a solution that may or may not satisfy all sides equally is both the starting point and the main predicament.

At the back of Arab and Israeli minds are a variety of doubts about the United States' intentions, about Washington's seriousness and even its written commitments, including the commitments of the tripartite agreement at the beginning of the 1950's, the secret and open commitments during the Suez war, the United States' promises immediately after the 1967 war, and those that coincided with the 1973 war, the Lebanese war and the Palestinian-United States dialogue and all that has followed to this day. Every party in the region has files of American promises and commitments that have not been fulfilled.

Baker's shuttle tours of the region were designed to feed old apprehensions and doubts with numerous obscure signals. Jordan asked the U.S. delegation visiting Amman a few days ago for legitimate written guarantees that the talks would be serious and ruled by the principles agreed upon, namely, the exchange of land for peace and the safeguarding of national and religious rights in Jerusalem. The Jordanian view was that American guarantees offered to it and to other Arab countries would be accompanied by written American guarantees commiting Israel to what the United States Presidency has pledged openly before the United States Congress.

However, the Arab trump card, the subject of extensive debate at this stage, is called the negative force of the PLO, namely the PLO's ability to say no in order to create a rupture. If it does not prevent the convening of the conference, it will have a negative effect on the comprehensiveness and seriousness of the solution in the end. Although these negative forces in the PLO control, the diplomatic pressure game to a large extent at this stage, it requires an overall Arab network which must be built in the short time remaining.

The linking card in this Arab network seems to be held by the Syrians. Is Syria really aware of its pan-Arab role at this sensitive and critical stage?

Commentary on Israel's Prevarications, Conditions

LD1608200191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Brothers, in the beginning the Israeli Government said it would not agree to participate in any peace process to which the PLO contributes. Then it said that it would not agree to the inclusion of representatives from East Jerusalem in the proposed Palstinian delegation. It also wanted someone from the Jordanian side of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to speak on the delegation's behalf.

The strange thing is that Israel accepts that the delegation should be called a Palestinian delegation. In accordance with the conditions laid down by Israel, it is apparent that it would be more correct to call it a Palestinian delegation selected by Israel. Every issue that has been raised regarding the Palestinian representation in the end boils down to Israel's insistence on participating in selecting that delegation or objecting to it.

The Israeli Government wanted the conference to be one of protocol and a preliminary one without any authority, and for the opening session to be followed by direct bilateral talks between Israel on the one side and every Arab side indivudally on the other, and it has gotten what it wanted.

The Israeli Government insists that it is under no obligation to accept the principle of land in exchange for peace and that it has the right to interpret UN Security Council Resolution 242 as it sees fit, and it seems that it will get what it wants. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Islamic Call, Nation's Movement Issue Statement

LD1608165191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] National radio this morning received a statement signed by President of the Islamic Call League Ahmed Sahnoun and President of the Nation's Movement Party Ben Youcef Ben Khedda in which they protest the continued state of seige and detentions within the Islamic trend, as the statement said. Here is the text of the statement:

The painful events of last June have reached such a dangerous stage that we have been prompted to consider the perils which characterize the general situation in the country . The state of seige which was imposed on 4 June has resulted in the killing and wounding of many people, mass detentions, and surprise search raids on the homes of citizens. These raids did not spare even the houses of God, centering on the ranks of the Islamic current. Furthermore, thousands of workers were dismissed from their jobs following the strike.

In the face of all that, the information media which are aligned with the regime kept a blind eye and closed their pages to almost all parties.

This is a result of the bad management of public affairs which has led to this catastrophe and caused the loss of trust between the nation and the regime.

Because of this state of affairs, the joint statement signed by Shaykh Ahmed Sahnoun and Ben Youcef Ben Khedda adds, we declare our strong protest and call on the regime to take the following points into consideration and to adopt adequate measures for calming the situation and thereby creating a favorable atmosphere for dialogue and consultations conducive to a solution of the overwhelming and dangerous crisis through which the country is passing on the eve of the legislative elections.

This state of affairs has developed: because the state of seige, which was imposed on 4 June 1991 has not been lifted; the detentions within the ranks of the Islamic trend are still continuing, particularly within the ranks of the Islamic Salvation Front; the officials of this party remain under detention; a large number of strikers have not been reinstated in their jobs following the measures taken against them and because of the limiting, if not the total closure, of the media to the opposition.

In view of this, the undersigned demand the following in order to calm the situation in the country:

—The lifting of the state of seige.

—The release of political detainees, particularly those of the Islamic Salvation Front and its leaders.

—The halting of pursuit of all those who had been sought following the June 1991 events.

—The reinstatement of the strikers to their jobs without any conditions that would detract from their honor.

—The payment of compensation to the victims of the June 1991 events.

Shaykh Ahmed Sahnoun and Ben Youcef Ben Khedda concluded their joint statement by appealing to citizens to show solidarity, both materially and morally, with the detainees and to declare their adherance to the realization of these demands.

Salvation Front To Boycott Government Meeting

LD1608174891 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Excerpt] In Algeria, the Islamic Salvation Front has let it be known that it will not participate in the meeting between the government and the parties planned for 22 August. Here is Ali Habib:

[Habib] This refusal does not surprise anybody. It must be remembered that the conditions for the Front's participation in the forum on 30 July included lifting the state of siege and the release of the nine members of the Majlis al-Shura, including Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj, who are imprisoned and have been turned over to military courts. These conditions have, quite clearly, not been satisfied. In addition, the collective stand taken by the group of the eight defense lawyers disputing the military courts' competence to judge their clients was dryly rejected by the body in charge of the state of siege. [passage omitted]

Government To Release State of Siege Detainees

LD1708204891 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] A government statement today said the following:

At the request of the head of government, the minister delegate for human rights visited all the security centers established in accordance with the presidential decree dated 4 June—except for Menaia, which has not been used up to now. On the dates they were visited, there were 329 people held at these centers under the special measures. Visits were paid to the following centers: the security center at Ouargla, Ain Mlila, Oran, (Ouled Faiet), and Blida.

On the basis of a report by the minister delegate for human rights, the head of government adopted the following two measures:

The first measure concerns those who are detained at the aforementioned security centers and whose period of detention has reached 45 days. Those people will be released tomorrow, Sunday, 18 August 1991.

The second measure concerns those who have not completed the 45- day period in detention. Regarding those people, the government urges the military authority charged with police duties in the state of siege to extend the benefit of measures releasing them without undermining the requirements of public order.

The two measures were adopted in accordance with the following facts and considerations: The positive results recorded in the field of public security and the proper running of public institutions and installations make the full implementation of the clauses allowing the period of the siege to be extended by another 45 days unnecessary. The government intends to continue its work to establish calm and expresses anew its will in that direction with a view to bolster and encourage the development recorded at the national level toward the reestablishment of calm, peace of mind, and civic peace.

The government reiterates that the number of people affected by the two aforementioned measures is 329. The number was 305 people on 31 July, as announced by the head of government during the first meeting between the government and [political] parties. As a result, these two measures do not include other people who have been charged, regarding whom only the Algerian judiciary—civil and military—has the authority to continue ongoing procedures and take them to their conclusion under strict respect for the country's laws.

Parties Demand Date for Presidential Election

LD1708214591 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Five days from now, the second meeting between the governments and parties will take place. The parties are using the time to coordinate their policies. About 20 parties agreed the day before yesterday to meet this morning at Ben Aknoun. The time came, but only 10 parties arrived, four of which withdrew. The remaining six remained for the meeting. [passage omitted]

Eight of the parties which were expected here had been meeting in camera at Algerian Renewal Party headquarters this evening. They have released this joint statement:

We demand that immediately after the lifting of the state of siege the date of the legislative elections be set, before the end of 1991. On the method of voting, we propose two ballots, leaving the [word indistinct] for the second ballot. We demand compensation for the cost of the previous election campaign, held in June 1991, and allocation of a specific sum for the forthcoming campaign. Cut down the total number of seats to between about 350 and 400, taking the population density into account, and to apply a special rule in the south. Presidential elections: the parties which have signed address a call to the president of the republic to hold early presidential elections and demand that the date for it be set. [passage omitted]

Family Visits to Islamic Salvation Leader Banned

LD1808133691 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The news of the day [in Algeria] is the release of Islamic prisoners held in security centers. [passage omitted] These releases come after family visits to eight leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front, including Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, were banned last Thursday—a step not officially confirmed.

Morocco

Further on 'Free Pardon' by King Hassan

LD1608151591 Rabat MAP in English 1407 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Rabat, Aug 16-(MAP)—On the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the retrieval of the Oued Eddahab province and in response to the memorandum submitted to King Hassan II of Morocco by the members of the Consultative Council of Human Rights, the Moroccan sovereign granted free pardon to the prisoners who recognized the Moroccanity of the Sahara and subscribed to national unanimity in this respect.

The free pardon is part of laudable move by King Hassan II who incepted the Council of Human Rights which in turn made proposals to amend the code of penal procedure namely concerning custody and preventive detention. The amendments were referred to the monarch before unanimous approval by the House of Representatives.

King Hassan also announced the creation of administrative courts at the level of provinces to shelter the citizens of any excess of authority and the bill in this matter was approved by the parliament which is considering the framework and training the personel to ensure their running.

The sovereign, in another laudable move, received the special consultative council for Saharan affairs and the representatives of Saharan tribes who came to intercede for the citizens of Saharan origin arrested in military and security zones for intelligence with the enemies of Moroccan territorial integrity.

The sovereign gave orders to free them as part of a royal free pardon move which enabled 269 people return in their families and resume daily life activities in full liberty.

The Ourkir family was also granted free pardon and is now living in Rabat.

Detained people belonging to a Marxist-Leninist group and terrorist organizations have also been freed since

1977 including 15 involved in the 'Anis Balafrej' case, 65 belonging to the 'Ila al-Amam' group and 20 other to the 'Mars 23' group as well as 17 other people involved in other affairs of public order disturbance.

The detainess were initially sentenced to two years to life emprisonment by entitled jursidictions which granted them all defense and other rights.

They addressed the monarch, during detention, letters in which they voiced attchment to the unity of the country, faith in the legitimity of its cause and mobilization to defend the dignity of the motherland and territorial integrity while recognizing the big blunder they made and askng for royal pardon.

A communique of the Information Ministry announced Wednesday a new measure of free pardon on the occasion of the Oued Eddahab Day when the Moroccan people commemorates reunion with southern brothers showing that the Moroccan people, united with its sovereign, places the principle of national unity above any other consideration.

Thus, only Abraham Serfati remains under custody—serving a life sentence for terrorist acts, bomb planting and complicity—as well as three of his accomplices after all those who took part in the conspiracy moved away from him.

Western Sahara

Polisario Accuses Morocco of Violating Truce

LD1708120491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Western Sahara [Polisario] yesterday accused Morocco of violating the unofficial truce that existed in the Western Sahara to prompt the United Nations to introduce some amendments in the plebscite plan scheduled for next December. Polisario also accused Morocco of bringing forces into the Western Sahara and of launching several raids on Saharawi positions in recent days. The UN secretary general announced a few days ago that 6 September, the official date for carrying out the planned plebscite and the cease-fire, will remain as is despite the resumption of some military operations in the Western Sahara.

Polisario Front Accuses Morocco of Deception

LD1808154891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The Saharawi Ministry of Information today issued a communique in reply to Morocco's recent announcement concerning the release of more than 200 Saharawi prisoners. The Saharawi Information Ministry's communique considered the statements a maneuver, an exercise in threats, and an attempt to provoke the Saharawis whom Morocco asked to leave Saharawi territories. It called on all humanitarian organizations to continue their support for the Saharawis and to put pressure on Morocco to give the Saharawi prisoners their rights. For its part, the Polisario Front accused Morocco of trying to mislead the international community by releasing some of the Saharawi detainees at a time when Moroccan prisons remain full of hundreds of Saharawis.

In a communique that was delivered to REUTER in Algiers, the Polisario Front requested that humanitarian organizations continue pressuring Morocco to release the remaining Saharawi detainees. The Polisario Front's communique emphasized that some of the Saharawis who were released last June revealed the death of 50 Saharawi prisoners at the Moroccan Kalaat M'gouna prison. The Polisario Front accused Morocco the day before yesterday of violating the announced truce, in an attempt to impose an amendment to the UN referendum plan in the region.

Kuwait

Cabinet Meeting on International, Domestic Issues

LD1808135291 London KUNA in Arabic 1239 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 18 August (KUNA)—The state of Kuwait decided today to send envoys from the Amir to leaders of a number of Arab countries to discuss ways to promote the efforts being exerted for the implementation of all the provisions of the UN Security Council resolutions on the end of the Kuwait liberation war in a manner which would realize Kuwait's just claims and insure the return of its innocent POWs from Iraqi prisons.

This was decided during the meeting held by the Kuwaiti Cabinet under the chairmanship of the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah. The meeting also reviewed a number of reports including one from the Ministry of the Interior on the circumstances surrounding the attack on a Kuwaiti patrol in the demiliterized zone last Wednesday.

Following the meeting, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dhari al-'Uthman stated that the cabinet began its work by acquainting itself with the message the Amir of Kuwait received from his brother the Amir of the fraternal state of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani in which he expressed his acceptance of the Amir of Kuwait's invitation to him to attend the 12th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Supreme Council, which will be held in Kuwait on 23 December. [passage omitted]

Al-'Uthman added that the cabinet also acquainted itself with message which the Amir of Kuwait received from president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the conditions in the region and ways to promote bilateral relations between the two countries within the framework of the common Islamic action.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs added that in response to the wish of the Amir of Kuwait to send messages to his brothers, the leaders of a number of fraternal Arab countries, and in furtherance of the great importance Kuwait shows on all levels to the question of the release of POWs who are still being detained by the Iraqi authorities, the ending of their sufferings, and the speeding up of their return to their homeland, the cabinet decided the following:

To ask the deputy prime minister and foreign minister to visit the GCC member countries; to ask the minister of state for cabinet affairs to visit Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Somalia and Djibouti; and to ask the minister of finance to visit Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, and Algeria to carry messages from the Amir of Kuwait to his brothers, the leaders of these countries, and discuss with them ways of promoting the efforts being exerted for the implementation of all the provisions of the UN Security Council resolution pertaining to the ending of the Kuwait war of liberation in a manner conducive to the realization of Kuwait's just claims and the saving of our brothers and sons, the innocent POWs and insuring their return to their homeland as quickly as possible.

Minister al-'Uthman added that the cabinet also heard a detailed report from the Minister of the Interior, Shaykh Ahmad al-Humud on the circumstances surrounding the incident in which the Iraqi forces opened fire last Wednesday morning on a Kuwaiti patrol inside Kuwaiti territory in the southern sector of the demilitarized zone, which resulted in material damage but no casualties.

He affirmed that the cabinet reviewed the contacts made and measures taken in this regard on all levels to prevent a repetition of this aggression.

Al-'Uthman said that afterwards, the cabinet turned to discussion of political matters. In this regard, it perused a number of reports on the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas.

Minister of Oil Dr. Humud al-Raqubah then explained to the cabinet the results of the visit of Iranian Minister of Oil Gholam Reza Aqazadeh to Kuwait, and acquainted the cabinet with the talks he had with him, which centered on the situation in the world oil market in addition to matters of cooperation in oil between the two countries, within the framework of the good bilateral relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Iranian Petroleum Minister Arrives for Visit

LD1608181191 London KUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait City, 16 Aug (KUNA)—Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Aqazadeh-Kho'i arrived here today at the head of a senior delegation on a visit during which he will deliver a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to his highness the amir of Kuwait.

He was received on arrival by his Kuwaiti counterpart Dr. Hamud al-Raqubah and officials from the Petroleum Ministry and the Iranian ambassador to Kuwait.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i made a statement on arrival in which he expressed his happiness to visit Kuwait and described the letter he carried as important.

He said he would hold talks with the Kuwaiti petroleum minister on the next OPEC conference and matters relating to cooperation in the field of oil.

He added: "The State of Kuwait is an important member of OPEC, and I would like to hear the points of view of my colleague Dr. al-Raqubah on oil issues and cooperation between our two countries in this field.

He said that he noticed useful activity as far as the Kuwaiti oil fields are concerned and was happy at Kuwait's achievement in extinguishing such a great number of burning wells. An Iranian team has also worked to extinguish oil fires in Kuwait.

Meets Amir, Prime Minister 17 Aug

LD1708125691 London KUNA in Arabic 1017 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 17 Aug (KUNA)—His highness the Kuwaiti amir received Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Aqazadeh-Kho'i and the accompanying delegation at 1000. His excellency the Iranian minister delivered a message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to his highness the amir. [passage omitted]

Shaykh S'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, received Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Aqazadeh-Kho'i and the accompanying delegation, which includes Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's son, in his Al-Bayan Palace office at 1030. The meeting was attended by Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamud 'Abdallah al-Raqubah and Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Hoseyn Sadeqi.

Al-Salim Meets Iranian Gulf Affairs Minister

LD1708172291 London KUNA in Arabic 1305 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait, 17 August, (KUNA)—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Fumani Ha'eri, advisor to the Iranian Foreign Minister for Gulf Affairs, this morning in his office. A diplomatic source at the Iranian embassy told KUNA that the Iranian advisor conveyed to Shaykh Salim a message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati dealing with the good bilateral relations between the two neighbors: Kuwait and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The source made it clear that the message also dealt with the means for the development of bilateral relations and development of cooperation at regional levels. The source said that the meeting between Shaykh Salim Al-Sabah and Ha'eri, also attended by Foreign Under Secretary Salman Al-Shahin, also dealt with the visit proposed in the near future by Minister Velayati to Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by the Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait as well as the director of the office of the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Ambassador Abdallah Sa'ud Al-Abd Al-Razzaq. It is worth mentioning that Ha'eri is visiting the country at present as a member of the delegation acommpanying the Iranian Oil Minister.

Receives Message From Velayati

LD1808074491 Tehran IRNA in English 0602 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug 18, IRNA—Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah received a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Tehran-Kuwait relations and ways of consolidating and broadening bilateral ties.

The message was delivered to the Kuwaiti minister by Iran's Foreign Ministry Director General for the Persian Gulf Affairs Mustafa Fumani Ha'eri. He arrived in Kuwait on a one-day official visit Friday accompanying Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh.

The two sides discussed situation in the region, issues of mutual interest and date of the forthcoming visit of Velayati to Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia

Iranian Minister Arrives, Meets Saudi Counterpart

LD1808063491 Tehran IRNA in English 0446 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Aqazadeh-Kho'i heading a high-ranking delegation arrived in Jeddah Saturday afternoon and was greeted by his Saudi counterpart.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i is carrying an important message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran for King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

The oil minister arrived in Jeddah from Kuwait where he paid a one day visit and delivered a message from President Rafsanjani to ruler of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Carries Message on Palestinian Rights

LD1708162191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] [Iranian] Oil Minister Aqazadeh-Kho'i met Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, today and submitted an important written message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani about fulfilling the rights of the oppressed Palestinian nation and confronting the current trend to undermine their rights.

Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i and his accompanying delegation—who arrived in Kuwait last night in the framework of visits to the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council member countries—arrived in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, today for the submission of a message from the president about the fulfilling the rights of the oppressed Palestinian nation.

Meets With King Fahd

LD1808224191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2205 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Jeddah, 18 Aug (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Saud, received a message from His Excellency 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The message was delivered to the custodian of the two holy mosques today by the Iranian oil minister, His Excellency Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, when the King received him and his accompanying delegation at his office in the al-Salam Palace.

The audience was attended by Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir; Dr. 'Abd al-Wahhab al-'Attar, the minister of planning and acting minister of petroleum and mineral resources; and the Iranian charge d'affaires to the Kingdom, Mr. Mohamed Ferazmand.

Government Welcomes New Soviet Leadership

JN1908115391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] This morning, leader President Saddam Husayn chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party during which they discussed the latest political developments, concentrating on the change in the Soviet Union.

An official spokesman stated the following at the end of the meeting:

The changes that have taken place in the Soviet Union are an internal affair. This change, however, attracts Iraq's attention because it has taken place in an influential country that Iraq used to consider and continues to consider a friendly country, despite the negative stances its regime, toppled today, took regarding Iraq, and because this change in one form or another affects the daily affairs of the world, including our affairs in Iraq and the Arab countries.

It also affects the traditional relations of friendship between the Soviet Union and Iraq and the Arab nation. The new Soviet leadership has pointed out the negative aspects of the past regime. It is clear to everyone that these negative aspects also reflected on international events, among which the situation in Third World countries, including Iraq specifically and the huge effects they had on it.

Therefore, it is natural for us to welcome this change, as do the countries and nations that were hurt by the former regime's policies. We hope that this change will contribute toward restoring the correct international balance to prevent hegemony and aggression on the rights of nations and the sovereignty of states and to order international relations on the basis of equality, respect for soevereignty, and legitimate mutual interests.

The spokesman declared that Iraq will positively respond to every initiative of friendship from the Soviet Union in its new age, whom we wish success in the tasks it has announced in the statement issued by the new Soviet leadership.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Hatim Hamdan, head of the president's office.

Report on UN Resolutions, al-Anbari Statements

JN1608161791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Excerpt] New York, The United Nations, 16 Aug (INA)—Late last night, the Security Council adopted three new and unjust resolutions against Iraq, which were passed under pressure applied by the representatives of the United States, Great Britain, and France on the representatives of the Security Council member states.

The INA correspondent in New York said that the first resolution, with the number 705, sets a ceiling for the reparations imposed on Iraq at 30 percent of its oil revenues.

The second resolution, number 706, stipulates that Iraq is allowed to sell a percentage of its oil production at a total amount of $1600 million over the next 6 months, a third of which will be deducted beforehand as reparations for war damages and costs to remove Iraqi strategic weapons.

The resolution also stipulates that the remaining amount of money will be placed in a fund, controlled by the United Nations, based in Geneva. The countries with veto power have the authority to dictate the mechanism and conditions by which Iraq can spend this money.

The INA correspondent in New York said Cuba voted against the resolution and the Republic of Yemen abstained.

The third resolution with the number 707 condemns what was described as Iraq's dangerous violation of its commitments to cooperate in eliminating and destroying or neutralizing its strategic weapons.

The INA correspondent said that Mr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, described the unjust Security Council Resolution 706, on Iraq's oil sales under strict conditions, as a fruitless resolution which was born dead.

Responding to questions from reporters, Mr. 'Abd-al-Amir al- Anbari said that this resolution, which was issued along with two other resolutions, does not even merit rejection because the mechanism it follows has promised it destruction and failure from the very moment it was introduced.

He adds that the resolution's formulation and unjust conditions go against all humanitarian meanings. On the whole, it constitutes a continuation of the siege and war against Iraq. The allowances it gives Iraq to export a percentage of its oil production to provide the absolute minimum of its humanitarian and food requirements, will be mixed with the poison whose smell is oozing out of the above-mentioned resolution.

Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations affirmed that Resolution 706 constitutes flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs, and places it under U.S., British, and French trusteeship. [passage omitted]

Press Criticizes Latest UN Resolutions

JN1708102991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—Papers published here today have strongly attacked the UN Security Council resolutions aimed at imposing control and hegemony over the Iraqi people, looting their natural resources, dominating their options, and violating their national sovereignty.

In editorials and analyses, the papers have been unanimous in their view that the new resolutions are part of the 30-state aggression against Iraq to entrench control over the region and to impose defeat on the Arab nation and its future generations.

The papers say: "Let the UN Security Council and its unjust resolutions go to hell."

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that the unjust resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council against Iraq yesterday under pressure from Washington and its three [as received] Western allies entrench the injustice being inflicted on the Iraqi people and reveal the hatred harbored against them.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says that the three new resolutions are part of the series of earlier unjust resolutions, as they have two major objectives: First, to shackle Iraq and to persist in starving the Iraqi people and imposing trusteeship on the country; and second, to threaten them with aggression and the use of force on various pretexts and justifications.

AL-JUMHURIYAH explains that both the new and earlier unjust resolutions against Iraq entail prejudices, constitute interference in internal affairs, and show disrespect for human rights within new international circumstances in which a single international power wants to dominate and turn all others into humble satellites, to shackle the freedom of those who love freedom, and to curb the free management of the resources of their homelands and people.

The paper indicates that the people of Iraq view with contempt and disdain the [word indistinct] with which the UN Security Council is treating them after the big powers and their petty followers, which could not tolerate a free, sovereign country's rejection of subserviency, humiliation, and disgrace, were completely uncovered and unmasked. They thus passed the judgment that this country had to pay a heavy price for its position, which did not please Zionism and did not meet with the acceptance of the tyrannical mentalities of old and new colonialism. Thus, they gathered and thrust all their spears because they disliked the position of those who maintained their pride and dignity at a time when big powers were falling and small ones were crawling underfoot to receive scraps and bones, which used to be reserved for dogs alone.

Al-JUMHURIYAH adds: Those who think that hammering from outside will lead to the state of collapse they dream will take place in Iraq are, in fact, deluded. After all that happened during and since the military aggression, the Iraqis are becoming increasingly convinced that they have chosen a great stance, and that, had their stance not been so great, they would not have faced all this injustice.

The enemies themselves know that the Iraqi people are invulnerable to their dark hopes and dreams. Therefore, they are punishing the future that separates the Iraqis from their dignity and their leadership. [sentence as received] The Iraqis' reply to these resolutions and those that preceded them will be deepening cohesion among the people of the one homeland and support for their leadership so as to continue the march, overcome the difficulties, and build a new Iraq enjoying freedom and independence and surmounting the pain resulting from the challenges. [passage omitted]

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH describes the UN Security Council resolutions as venomous and unjust to Iraq, constituting a perpetuation of war and the state of siege. In an editorial today, the newspaper says the resolutions adopted by the Security Council following U.S., British, and French pressure are simply unjust resolutions unfair to Iraq. Their first and last aim is to impose trusteeship on the Iraqi people, confiscate their independent political decisionmaking, and steal their natural wealth, oil, by fixing a timeframe and ceiling for oil production, and controlling Iraq's hard currency revenues so as to finance the chapters and links of the conspiracy against Iraq and its people. [passage omitted]

The paper refers to the third unjust and deceptive resolution adopted against Iraq, which includes a denunciation of what it describes as Iraq's serious violation of its commitment to cooperate in removing, eliminating, and dismantling its strategic weapons. The paper describes the resolution as a new dangerous link in the conspiracy because the resolution is not a mere denunciation, but an intentional attempt to provide the political atmosphere for a new and unjust military aggression against Iraq and its people. This is what the United States repeatedly declared and threatened to do under this pretext in its fabricated clamor prior to the adoption of the resolution, which can truly be labelled as "unfair" because it contravenes and contradicts all affirmations and assurances made by the UN committees during their activities in this field. These committees praised Iraq's serious and sincere cooperation with their missions and the facilities it extended to them to help them discharge their duties as best they could in implementing the previous UN resolutions.

Concluding, the newspaper stresses that Iraq and its people are today facing a new round of a multifaceted conspiracy. These wretched and deceptive resolutions seek to force the Iraqi people to bow and be humiliated, and are wielding the weapons of bread, aggression, and destruction all at once.

The great Iraqi people who managed to abort the objectives of the U.S. conspiracy in all its previous pages and installments, are able today, through their steadfastness and spirit of jihad, construction, and production, and their support for their historic leadership, symbolized by leader Saddam Husayn, to abort the conspiratorial objectives of these unjust resolutions. [passage omitted]

The newspaper BABIL says the people of the world today need the shoe Khrushchev used to pound the UN podium, so they can use it again at the UN Security Council and declare that everything that is called international law has failed. The paper asks: Is this a security council ... or a whorehouse?

That the big capitalists kill people and that their forces invade nations should be known and predictable all the time. This is because invasion, aggression, and killing have been laws of capitalism since its emergence. But for the socialists to have the same position at the UN Security Council is something regretful that calls for deep reflection.

The paper adds: The international socialists are now turning into brokers of capitalism. Shame on them! But who is to blame when we are facing a type of socialist in the closing years of the 20th century similar to that of World War I who supported the capitalist war? [passage omitted]

The paper stresses: The people of the world have the right to pronounce this alleged socialism dead, and to look for a new approach to socialism that is not poisoned by grants or conditional loans from the United States and the West. This is because what has happened to Iraq so far at the hands of the new agents of capitalism will happen to any other people who refuse to sacrifice their homeland and independence under the threat of blockade, starvation, intimidation, and foreign invasion.

Perhaps it is the duty of all good people in the world to support the struggle of real socialists in the countries who, under their leaders, acted like a life jacket for the world capitalist system when it was reeling under the vehement popular struggle in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. [passage omitted]

The paper asks: Can anyone anywhere be mistaken when he pronounces the United Nations and the Security Council dead, and calls for alternative popular international organizations and popular international courts to replace the United Nations, the Security Council, and the Hague Court? [passage omitted]

Concluding its editorial, BABIL asserts: The new UN Security Council resolutions against Iraq are a return to the era of mandate and trusteeship and the age of the League of Nations, the Sykes-Picot treaties, and the terms of capitulation imposed on Japan and Germany at the end of World War II.

This was approved this time by those who call themselves socialists and by some states that forgot the crimes in the previous colonialist occupation of their territories. They also forgot the imperialists' responsibility for their hunger, foreign debt, and debt interests, and for insistence in making them join the convoy of international capitalism.

Amity Group Condemns UN Resolutions

JN1808120591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA)—Iraq's Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization has urged world organizations and societies of friendship, peace, and solidarity all over the world to raise their voices and put pressure on decisionmakers in their countries to help end the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

In a message to world organizations, the Iraqi group condemned the recent Security Council resolutions and described them as resolutions to impose foreign custodianship in such a way as to infringe upon the sovereignty of Iraq and of its people, who aspire to build a free and independent country.

The Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization noted that the Iraqi people want to obtain dignity and bread through their own resources and thet they reject the alms offered by the United States and its allies, which are inventive in their use of the tactics of hegemony and domination, and also regarding the immense enmity they are demonstrating toward free people.

UN Resolutions Hint Iraqi Leaders 'Not Honest'

JN1908084991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 19 Aug (INA)—Iraqi newspapers today continued to condemn the three new resolutions issued by the Security Council, the latest in the series of unjust resolutions against Iraq. [passage omitted]

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH states in today's editorial that the weak Security Council resolution regarding the partial lifting of the economic siege essentially seeks a number of evil objectives and designs serving the comprehensive U.S. conspiracy against Iraq and its people.

The newspaper explains that the unjust resolution provides these covetous forces with the possibility of exercising trusteeship over the people of Iraq and interfering in the sense of telling them what, how, and how much of their food they can eat. It points out that the suspect resolution seeks to exploit the basic needs of the Iraqi people in the ugliest way to cast doubts on and deal a blow to the solidarity and cohesion between the Iraqi people and their national state organs.

AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Iraqi Defense Ministry, says that the mechanism to implement this new resolution, which trades with the lives of the Iraqi people in the colonialist political market of the American party, also suggests that Iraq's national authority is not honest in distributing the people's basic needs.

This is what the Americans and the 30-nation alliance talked about, which is the other, malicious face of the unjust U.S. wager to affect Iraq's national unity.

Concluding its article, the newspaper states that this suspect resolution, which disguises itself with a fake humanitarian mask, is a major and dangerous part of the conspiracy against the Iraqi people, a blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs, and an attempt to impose trusteeship over it. [passage omitted]

Rebel Radios Report Antigovernment Operations

Helicopter Hit in Marshlands

NC1408174691 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Pursuing the jihad course launched by the valiant mujahidin to combat Saddam's oppression and injustice, a group of mujahidin of the victorious popular forces laid an ambush for a military convey on the al-'Amarah-al-Kut road. When the convoy passed, our valiant fighters opened automatic weapons and rocket fire coupled with shouts of "God is Great" and "Death to Saddam," which reverberated with the sound of the explosions. Our valiant fighters then withdrew from the area after killing and wounding a number of despicable mercenaries, destroying two military vehicles, and capturing a number of light weapons. Congratulations to our valiant heros for their successful raids and blows to the heads of the midget tyrants.

Reliable sources have also reported that a Ba'thist helicopter carrying a number of military commanders was hit over the marshlands and made an emergency landing in (al-Mudaynah) area, north of al-Barah.

Al-Basrah Attacks Reported

NC1608151891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Our rebellious people's heroic mujahidin are continuing their daring attacks against the oppresive regime's centers and symbols. A few days ago, the revolutionaries carried out a successful operation against a security center in al-Basrah Governorate and killed three security personnel, including criminal Qasim Ruhaymah Mazlum. Two days earlier, another group attacked the Infantry Division 445 Headquarters, killing an officer and a soldier who had played a criminal role in fighting our Muslim people.

Ba'th Security Official Attacked

NC1708153591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Our sources have reported that on 6 August a number of our heroic revolutionaries shot and seriously wounded criminal Muhammad Sabr Shahir. He was shot in the back, and his condition has been described as very critical.

The criminal is a member of the Ba'th Party and a senior officer in the Saddamist security forces in Baghdad. He played a criminal role in the hostilities against our revolutionary people.

The group retreated safely to its base after carrying out the courageous attack.

Clashes in Karkuk

NC1708180791 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Tension still prevails in the northern part of the country due to the ongoing armed clashes near the city of Karkuk between brother Kurds, who refuse to support the treacherous regime, and the Ba'thist mercenaries. Informed sources report that various light-caliber weapons are being used in the clashes during which several of the henchmen of the tyrant's regime have been killed or wounded.

The sources added that the Ba'thist regime has sent troops to the scene of the clashes because it fears Kurdish revolutionary attacks on its bases near nearby oil fields.

Resistance Claims 10 Aug Attack

NC1808145791 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Men of the brave popular uprising continue to intensify their strikes against Saddam's collapsing regime. On 10 August our heroes attacked a military column on the al-Basrah-al-'Amarah highway, killing or injuring most of its members and destroying many of its vehicles, which were loaded with ammunition. As a result, the ammunition exploded, and the noise was heard from long distances. One hero of the attacking group was martyred, and the group returned safely to base after rescuing the martyr from the scene.

Republican Guards, 'Soldiers' Reportedly Clash

NC1708153491 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Informed sources have reported that an amred clash has taken place between Republic Guards and a group of soldiers guarding the house of Taha Yasin Ramadan, located in the central al-Rashid markets near al-Mansur.

The sources added that the fighting expanded to the Abu-Ghurayyib camp.

Government Said Increasing Military in North

NC1708153891 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Barham Salih, a member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has reported that the tyrant's regime is dispatching more forces to Kurdish towns and is sending helicopters to a base near the Turkish border—in violation of the coalition forces' withdrawal agreement.

Barham Salih said that large numbers of the tyrant's forces are forcibly removing Kurdish citizens from the areas around Karkuk, adding that 2,726 plots of land have been confiscated and registered to people who are not Kurds. He also said that the tyrant's forces are moving in Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah and that helicopters belonging to the defeated regime have been seen landing in a military base not far from Dahuk.

Military Said Planning Large Marsh Operations

LD1708172191 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The Iraqi regime's forces intend to carry out large-scale operations against Muslims in the southern part of that country, especially in the marshlands. The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), announced that, in keeping with the implementation of these operations, the Iraqi regime's military, by strengthening its loyal forces and units in the region, has embarked on an inspection of houses and villages in the vicinity of Hur district.

At the same time, armed officers from Infantry Brigade 180, disguised in local civilian clothing, have been circulating among the cities of (?Chapayesh) and (?al-Fahur). The Iraqi regime's agents, by applying psychological warfare techniques, and by putting pressure on that region's people, have also spread rumors suggesting that the planned attack, scheduled to take place on 8 October, has been postponed to another date, while the Iraqi regime encourages the inhabitants of Hur to leave their homes.

SAIRI Reports Government 'Mercenaries' Attack

LD1808152191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Mercenaries belonging to Iraq's Ba'athist regime, have brought the southern districts of that country under aerial attack. According to a report by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), the regime's forces have bombed the districts of al-Fahud, al-'Abra, Hur al-Hammar, and al-Jebayesh in southern Iraq. We have not received any reports as to the number of those martyred and injured in the attack. The report adds: The Ba'athist mercenaries are currently engaged in inspecting the residential areas of Hur district. This is at a time when forces of Saddam's regime, intend to attack the southern districts of Iraq.

Talabani Returns to Kurdistan After 7-State Tour

NC1608175591 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has returned to Iraqi Kurdistan after a tour which took him to Britain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Romania, Turkey, and Jordan. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Foresees Kurdish Agreement

JN1708114991 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid has stressed that agreement with the brothers in the delegation of the Kurdistan parties front will be announced within a short time. In a seminar held yesterday at al-Ta'mim Governorate, he said the dialogue is going on steadily in a good and orderly manner; that advanced and basic points have been concluded within the framework of the 11 March declaration's principles, which granted national rights to our Kurdish people within Iraqi territory and its solid unity; and that only a very few things in the dialogue remain to be discussed.

The minister added that Iraq will be stronger than it was prior to the imperialist and Zionist aggression, and that it will restore glory to the Arabs and play a great human role in this world in which malicious interests are fighting one another.

He called on the partisan, popular, and professional organizations, clergymen, people's councils, and governorate officials to double their efforts with more vitality in all fields in order to rebuild what the aggressors and saboteurs have destroyed, and to resist and foil the unjust economic siege through relentless action.

He stressed that the Iraqis, whether Arab or Kurd, and all other minorities will be, as President Saddam Husayn knows them to be, brave people holding their swords in front of the enemies and the conspirators.

The seminar was attended by al-Ta'mim Governor Hashim Hasan al-Majid, a number of comrade members of the north organization bureau, the leadership of al-Ta'mim branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and officials and heads of popular organizations in the governorate.

Regional Command member Sa'di Mahdi Salih had earlier emphasized in an interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH that the dialogue with the Kurdish parties' delegation had made substantial strides and that the autonomy agreement would come within a short time.

Minister Warns of 'Starvation' as Reserves Dwindle

JN1808163491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Iraqi Agriculture Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Sabbagh said today that foodstuffs will be exhausted and there will be starvation in Iraq if the United Nations does not lift the international embargo. In a statement to AFP, the Iraqi minister said that some foodstuffs have actually run out, that most foodstuffs will be used up in one month, and that all foodstuffs will not last more than two months at the most.

Hammadi Urges 'Dedication' To Counter Embargo

JN1808185191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA)—Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi has said that the nature and scale of the conspiracy against Iraq call for a high degree of dedication if we are to beat the unjust economic embargo.

Hammadi stressed the need to detect and tackle bureaucratic shortcomings during a meeting with government officials. He emphasized that government officials whose work involves direct contact with citizens must give prompt attention to concerns of the general public.

Planning Minister Gives Figures on Losses

JN1808090891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA)—Planning Minister Dr. Samal Majid Faraj has put financial losses resulting from the economic blockade imposed on Iraq between 2 August 1990 and 17 January 1991 at $17 billion.

In a statement to INA, Dr. Faraj said that part of these losses came as a result of the partial or total stoppage of operations in economic, production, and service installations due to the blockade; the inability to import raw materials; as well as the problems having to do with labor and halting exports.

Dr. Faraj noted that halting oil production caused the state treasury to lose approximately $10 billion.

The planning minister estimated Iraq's losses as a result of the complete halt to work in production installations at $2.299 billion. Losses incurred as a result of partial stoppages totaled $2.8 billion, whereas the losses caused by increased production costs at the installations totaled $948 million.

Dr. Faraj spoke about the losses resulting from the delay in accomplishing development plans and said that these losses were estimated at $710 million. As for those caused by other factors, they amount to approximately $1.32 billion.

On the losses incurred in noncommodity production, the planning minister said that trade, service, transport, communications, financial, and banking institutions were also hurt due to total or partial stoppages or due to decreased production. Revenues consequently went down. When the institutions continued to operate, they sustained losses because the prices of raw materials increased, not to mention other cost elements.

Awqaf Minister To Attend Islamic Council Meeting

JN1908091991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0756 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug (INA)—Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil left Baghdad today for Cairo to participate in the sessions of the constituent body of the World Islamic Council for the Call and Relief [WICCR] which will start four days of meetings there on Wednesday.

The minister told INA that the Iraqi delegation to these meetings will present a working paper with some ideas and opinions that will help strengthen the role of Islamic organizations and societies and serve the interests of Islam and the Muslims.

He added that the conferees will work on healing the rift within the Arab and Islamic nation as a result of the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression on Iraq, and discuss cooperation and coordination among the ministries of Awqaf and religious and Islamic affairs, as well as among organizations belonging to the Council in spreading the call and providing relief, and ways to coordinate Islamic action throughout the world.

It should be noted here that the presidential council of the WICCR, whose headquarters are in Cairo, includes 30 Islamic organizations and seven ministries of awqaf and religious and Islamic affairs.

AL-THAWRAH Editor Urges Self-Criticism

JN1608065391 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 14 Aug 91 p 1

[Article by Chief Editor Sabah Yasin: "On Brave Opinions Within and Outside the Party"]

[Text] In the party conferences, the committees responsible for organizing the meetings and supervising their proceedings urged the participating comrades to talk about various party and other issues. Responses varied between one conference and another, between one Ba'thist and another, but, in general, they were not of the level required in this type of activity or in line with the organizational and democratic atmosphere provided.

There are reasons and justifications for this, particularly the absence of conferences from party life for a relatively long time. Additionally, the work at the conferences was divided between reviewing and assessing the march and the process of nominating and electing new leaders. This led to the latter trend prevailing, and the conferences became merely a process to reiterate confidence in the leaders, and nothing more.

Democratic awareness and action can be achieved and embodied through day-to-day action and by relying on the Ba'thist traditions in practicing criticism and self-criticism. The Ba'thist militant who does not play his role and express his opinion within the party house is undoubtedly unable to express his opinion among the masses, and he will not be qualified or able to lead them.

Memos to UN Protests U.S. Air Activity

14-15 Aug Flights

JN1608154791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1528 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] New York, 16 Aug (INA)—U.S. aircraft have continued to violate Iraq's airspace for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

In a memorandum addressed to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said that U.S. air activity in Iraq's airspace for 14-15 August totalled 20 air sorties, consisting of nine two-plane formations and four individual sorties. [figures as received]

The memorandum noted that the enemy flights were concentrated over the areas of Irbil, Rawandoz, Zakho, Mosul, and al-'Amadiyah, at speeds ranging between 600 and 800 km per hour, at altitudes of 5 to 7.5 km.

15-16 Aug Flights

JN1708193491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1818 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] New York, 17 Aug (INA)—U.S. military aircraft have again violated Iraqi airspace, engaging in acts of surveillance and provocation.

According to a memorandum sent by Iraq's permanent UN delegate to the UN secretary general, on 15-16 August U.S. pilots flew 11 sorties in five formations of two aircraft each and a single sortie, travelling at speeds of 600-700 km per hour at altitudes between 4-6 km.

The memorandum noted that the overflights were centered over Irbil, Mosul, Dahuk, and al-'Amadiyah.

At 1006, an unidentified object coming from Kuwait entered the Safwan region, flying 35 km into southern Iraq at 600 km per hour. The single aircraft, which was probably carrying out reconnaissance, disappeared into Kuwaiti airspace at 1020.

At 1255, another object penetrated 10 km inside Iraqi territory over the Safwan region and was travelling at 600 km per hour. The single aircraft disappeared into Kuwait airspace at 1305, the memorandum added.

At 1348, another unidentified object penetrated our international airspace from Kuwait to conduct reconnaissance south of Artawiyah. The single plane, travelling at 600 km per hour, disappeared inside Kuwaiti airspace at 1356.

At 1406, another unidentified object penetrated 5 km inside Iraqi airspace west of Safwan. Travelling at 600 km per hour, the object reentered Iraqi airspace and reached 10 km south of the Air Unit Base.

16-17 Aug Flights

JN1808093391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] New York, 17 Aug (INA)—U.S. aircraft have violated Iraq's airspace for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

In a memorandum addressed to the UN secretary general, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said that U.S. air activity in Iraq's airspace for 16-17 August totalled 14 air sorties, consisting of seven two-plane formations.

The memorandum noted that the U.S. flights were concentrated over the areas of Mosul, Dahuk, al-'Amadiyah, and Irbil. The planes flew at a speed of 700 km per hour and at altitudes ranging between 2 to 10 km.

U.S. Human Rights Delegation Concludes Visit

Says 'Economic Siege' Must End

JN1608165991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—The delegation representing the American human rights program has demanded that the economic siege on Iraq be lifted.

Mr. James McDomatt [name as received], head of the delegation currently visiting Iraq, told an INA correspondent that the delegation, after clearly seeing the results of this siege on the children and old people, will explain the sufferings of the Iraqi people to the American people. He warned against the dangers of continuing this siege. He pointed out that the results of this situation will be tragic if it continues for another three months.

He clarified that the delegation will soon do all it can to permit quantities of milk to get to the children and medicines and foodstuffs to reach the Iraqi people.

Departs Baghdad

JN1608170791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1636 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—The delegation representing the American human rights program left Baghdad today after concluding its three-day visit to Iraq.

The delegation, which included a number of U.S. doctors and businessmen, saw the effects of the destruction and ruin caused by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq.

The delegation also visited a number of hospitals in Baghdad and the governorates and learned about the situation of the sick people and children and the shortage in medicines, medical supplies, and foodstuffs which has resulted from the economic siege imposed on Iraq.

'Largest' Counterfeiting Gang Arrested

JN1708135191 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Aug 91 pp 1, 2

[By Qasim al-Maliki and Zamil Ghannam]

[Excerpt] In Baghdad, anticrime teams have apprehended the largest gang specializing in the counterfeiting of hard currency banknotes, especially dollars.

Colonel Hashim Muhammad Faraj, director of the Anticrime Directorate, told AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondents, who accompanied him in a night tour of a number of anticrime offices in Baghdad, that a citizen had informed the al-Yarmuk anticrime office that some people were changing counterfeit foreign banknotes, especially counterfeit dollars, using illegal means to exploit the ignorance of some citizens yearning to acquire such currencies.

He said that those persons were selling the $100 banknote for 200 Iraqi dinars. He said this aroused the suspicions of anticrime offices that are following the price of the dollar and its fluctuations. [passage omitted]

Paper Unveils 'Conspiracy' Against Local Currency

JN1808093091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that Iraq is being exposed to a new economic conspiracy to destroy the national currency by flooding the local market with large amounts of counterfeit currency.

The paper, an organ of the Defense Ministry, added in a report published today that Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, Turkey, and Syria are taking part in this conspiracy, using northern Iraq as the major arena.

The paper goes on to say: For months, northern Iraq has been the scene of these countries' frenzied efforts to collect the largest possible amount of the 25-dinar banknotes issued for circulation prior to 2 August 1990.

The paper noted that these banknotes are being collected in Turkey and Iran and shipped to Saudi Arabia, where they are burned. In the meantime, Iraqi markets are being flooded with large amounts of counterfeit 25-dinar, 50-dinar, and 100-dinar banknotes printed by special machines in Iran and Turkey.

AL-QADISIYAH said that Iran transported three special printing machines to the Iraqi-Iranian border for this purpose a few months ago. These machines have been operating for two weeks, the paper added.

In its economic report, the paper said: In accordance with an agreement concluded with Saudi Arabia, Iran flooded the markets in northern Iraq with Iranian commodities at extremely cheap prices. The following condition was put on the purchase of these commodities: They had to be paid for with 25-dinar Iraqi banknotes issued for circulation prior to 2 August 1990.

The paper added: Kuwait did the same, using Turkish merchants acting with the prior knowledge of the Turkish Government to achieve the same purpose. Once the Iraqi currency is collected, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait buy it with dollars at the official rate. In accordance with the official rate, the Iraqi dinar is exchanged for $3.20. In return, Turkey and Iran are expected to pump into Iraqi markets counterfeit currency many times the purchased amounts of Iraqi currency.

AL-QADISIYAH cites Iraqi banking sources as saying that Iraq has taken countermeasures in the security and banking fields to discover the number of counterfeit banknotes, that the Central Bank of Iraq has issued a list containing the banknote numbers, and that it has also managed to collect them all.

The paper indicates that for months, Syria has been collecting Iraqi one-dinar coins in order to use the metal for industrial purposes, and also because this will render Iraq incapable of replenishing them due to the economic blockade.

Customs Officials Thwart Copper, Gold Smugglers

JN1608095991 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Aug 91 p 8

[By Rawiyah Hashim and Ikhlas al-'Amiri]

[Excerpts] Baghdad—Tribil—Customs officials in the border area of Tribil have foiled a plan to smuggle a large amount of copper in tankers.

A customs source at the al-Qadisiyah border complex said that five trucks involved in the plan were seized, including one with license plate number 13359-Jordan. Our correspondent saw the vehicle in Tribil Saturday.

The source said that 100,000 Iraqi dinars were seized from a GMC vehicle with plate number 103265. The driver was smuggling the money on behalf of another person.

Another customs source in Baghdad has revealed that the General Customs Organization had seized 41 kg of gold, many millions of Iraqi dinars, and hundreds of thousands of dollars over the past seven months.

The organization's director, Bastam 'Abbud al-Jannabi, told the AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondents that 100 tonnes of copper had been seized in the past few days in Tribil. He said 18 trucks loaded with copper masses mixed with copper alloys [khabath al-nuhas] were confiscated.

He said copper alloys can be exported from Iraq while copper masses cannot.

He said smugglers cover copper masses with alloys and put them in tankers transporting crude oil to Jordan. [passage omitted]

Mr. al-Jannabi said smuggling operations have recently increased with the implementation of Decision No. 52, which allows importation without foreign transfers. Traders, he explained, can import goods with smuggled hard currency or Iraqi dinars.

He said that Decision No. 52 was meant to break the unjust economic blockade against Iraq by allowing the import of foodstuffs and production requirements without foreign transfers or procedures that would hinder importation. He added that some traders, however, are acting in a way that hurts the Iraqi economy. [passage omitted]

International Telephone Lines Tested

U.S. Link 'Successful'

JN1608092491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0832 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—A test of telephone links with the international communications center in the United States via the towers of al-Dujayl ground station has been successful.

AL-THAWRAH cites a source at the Ministry of Transport and Communications as saying that this test is a first step which will be followed over the next few days by other steps to gradually open international communications channels to the public. The source added that this major step was the result of persistent efforts by the technical and engineering staff.

Direct Lines Restored Globally

JN1708140391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Aug (INA)—Iraq today resumed direct telephone communications with the world via the al-Dujayl ground satellite station.

The station's deputy director told INA that telephone and cable services have resumed between Iraq and the United States, and from there to the rest of the world, via 48 telephone channels.

He added that tests have been completed between the al-Dujayl station and the U.S. Andover [name as received] station, which covers the two Americas and Europe, and which employs one of the satellites stationed at an inclination of 359 [figure as received] degrees over the Atlantic Ocean.

An INA correspondent, who visited the al-Dujayl station today, said that citizens have already begun making telephone contact with other countries around the world either directly, or through the operator on telephone number 105.

In another development, the al-Dujayl station director announced that the technical staff today began communications tests with the U.S. Corum [name as received] station to increase the current 48 telephone and cable channels by another 60 channels. These will be increased in the future to the full capacity allocated by the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization, Intelsat; namely, 132 telephone channels, as well as one television channel.

USSR Consulate Stops Issuing Tourist Visas

TA1908082091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Approximately 30 minutes ago, the Soviet Consulate in Tel Aviv stopped issuing tourist visas to the USSR. Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that the consulate offices opened as usual at 0900 [0600 GMT], and for an hour the consulate staff processed visas on a regular basis. The consul then came out and told the people waiting for visas that due to the unclear situation in the USSR, the consulate will stop issuing visas and will reassess the situation.

Peres on Convening Meeting Despite USSR Events

TA1908110891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said he believes a Middle East peace conference will be convened despite the overthrow of Gorbachev. Peres said he also believes that the Kremlin will continue its current foreign policy to maintain unity at home. Peres said he does not believe the ouster of Gorbachev will affect the Middle East peace process.

The Labor Party chairman called on Israeli officials to refrain from any statement that would give the impression that Israel is intervening in the domestic affairs of the USSR. Peres called Gorbachev the first Russian leader in 500 years that did not pursue bloodshed as official policy.

Levi Hopes Peace Process To Proceed

TA1908095791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0902 GMT 19 Aug 91

[News conference with Foreign Minister David Levi by news correspondents following the announcement of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Albania; in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] What impact will the deposing of Gorbachev have on Israeli-Soviet relations? Will we move toward the resumption of ties with the Soviet Union despite what is happening in Moscow today?

[Levi] We are closely following the developments in the Soviet Union with great concern. One could say that this is an internal Soviet matter; however, anything that happens in the Soviet Union, which is both a country and a superpower, has ramifications for the entire world. Therefore, Israel, as part of the world, is monitoring developments and hoping with a prayer in its heart that the rapprochement between the two blocs—that same openness and hope that in this generation gave us all reason to believe that the dark days and periods were behind us and that the world was moving toward cooperation and openness; that dividing walls were going to fall down and that we were approaching peace, progress, and understanding between states—will not be shattered and broken. That is our prayer for the peoples of the Soviet Union and for humanity in general. We cannot but add this prayer that is in the heart of every peace-loving human being.

There are some questions that apply to us, and I hope that whoever rules the USSR understands the significance of leaving the gates of the Soviet Union open for the Jewish people and the importance the entire world lends to the great turnabout that we have witnessed and which should not be reversed.

As for the reverberating question of how this will effect the peace process in the region: It is true that the Israeli Government welcomed and agreed to the patronage of both the superpowers in promoting the peace process between Israel and its neighbors. Regardless of what happens, however, this is a moment of truth for the countries in the region, and they must realize, remember, and bear in mind that peace is their own concern; it affects them and will determine the future of both Israel and the Arabs. There must be no delay or any obstacles. We must realize that what we have accomplished in this field at great effort demands above all a great deal of responsibility from the countries in the region, from the Arab states and from Israel. Our eyes gaze ahead in prayer and hope that there will be no deterioration in the situation there and no holdups over here.

[Correspondent] Sir, will the peace conference be postponed because of the international focus on the developments in the Soviet Union?

[Levi] I said that I hope the Middle East countries understand that peace affects them and is in their own interest and realize that they must do everything so that the developments taking place in the Soviet Union do not overshadow the steps we have taken or obstruct further progress in the peace process, which is the message and the hope for this region which has known upheavals, wars, and other serious crises.

[Correspondent] Mr. Levi, do you think that the coup in the Soviet Union will affect Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel?

[Levi] I hope not, and I hope they understand the importance of leaving the gates open for the Jews. All the elements in the Soviet Union are aware of the international significance given this issue by numerous enlightened countries and their intense interest in this matter.

Events in USSR Raise Value of U.S. Ties

TA1908073191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0535 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Telephone interview with Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology, by Shalom Qital and Gid'on Remez]

[Text] [Qital] We have Minister Yuval Ne'eman with us on the telephone line. Good morning, sir. You met Gorbachev recently. What is your personal impression of today's events in the USSR? Did you feel that anything like it could happen?

[Ne'eman] I could not feel this during my conversation with him. However, I could feel it when I spoke to his associates and others we dealt with in various stages, such as Yakovlev, for example, with whom I held long talks at the time. They were certainly concerned, and one of the possibilities always taken into consideration was that the Army and the KGB might take action.

[Remez] Minister Ne'eman, at the time you were very angry with me when I asked you this question—when you signed the scientific agreement with the Soviet Academy of Sciences several months ago—but I will repeat it: In such fluid times, is it wise to talk of cooperation or agreements on far-reaching issues such as nuclear energy? Could such agreements be upheld at all?

[Ne'eman] I believe that the current state of affairs in the USSR, this uncertainty, will last many years because this is a complicated process to step out of 70 years of communism. I believe that from Israel's point of view it is important to hold on to every means and option available to us, while calculating the risks. We must always consider the possibility that things will change there. I believe that the academic and scientific ties will continue and remain stable. We will see. I am waiting for the visit by the president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences here in September. I hope it will take place as planned. I believe that even in the current situation, scientific ties will be sustained. At the same time I would like to hope that the political openings that have been created will continue to exist, which is not impossible. The new establishment there, because of its desire to remain on the international arena, will not forsake these options, I believe.

[Qital] Have you reached any political conclusions for Israel?

[Ne'eman] From Israel's point of view, the whole system which helped create the current state of affairs in the Middle East—which was based on the United States being the only world superpower—will have to be reconsidered. I believe that the Americans will reevaluate the situation, and it is possible that now they will value their ties with us more then they have in the recent past when they felt that we are somewhat unnecessary to them.

I believe that Israel must mainly prepare for the absorption of many Jews, if they are allowed to leave. There is no doubt in my mind that this will renew the immigration wave. Jews have been leaving because of the uncertain situation there and, because it has become even more uncertain, I believe more Jews will want to leave. The question is whether the new regime will allow it. Let me remind you that in his address to the Soviet Parliament, the head of the KGB spoke of the brain drain as some Western plot to get the brains out of the USSR. I hope the gates do not close.

[Remez] Did your liberal interlocutors there, who were concerned by just this possibility, speak of its ramifications for the issues dear to us: aliyah and political ties with the USSR?

[Ne'eman] They could not have known what would happen if the other side were to win. I cannot even say that those who took over there know what they are going to do. We have to assume, I believe, that the new regime will try to show the West its relatively smiling face to avoid a sudden rift. That is why they sent the cable to the UN secretary general saying that things will continue unchanged. In practice, things have changed. This is certain.

[Qital] Minister Ne'eman, thank you.

Albanian Foreign Minister Kapllani Arrives

TA1808164591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Albanian Foreign Affairs Minister Muhamet Kapllani arrived in Israel this afternoon to conclude the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. He is the first Albanian diplomat ever to visit Israel. Upon arrival he said that his mission is one of friendship, and that the establishment of diplomatic relations is a historic act.

Kapllani Views USSR Events

TA1908110591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Interview with Albanian Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani by Jack Katzenell in Jerusalem on 19 August—recorded]

[Text] [Kapllani] It is an event which I think impresses everybody, because the USSR is a huge country, it has many problems. I think we will have to see what follows after this, but I believe the democratic processes, democracy, is something which will not stop in the USSR.

[Katzenell] Are you worried about this putsch, sir?

[Kapllani] Well, I am worried about democracy anywhere in the world.

[Katzenell] Will the process of democratization in Albania be affected?

[Kapllani] I don't want it to be affected. I have faith in democratic processes in Albania being irreversible.

[Katzenell] About Albania's attitude to Israel, for example; will this be affected by the change?

[Kapllani] I don't think so.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 19 August quotes Kapllani as adding that "what the Russians do at home is their business, but I live in the Balkans, which is a sensitive region because of the severe crisis in Yugoslavia." In a recorded passage, Kapllani adds: "I hope that whatever happens in the USSR, whatever the turn of events, it will not affect the peaceful resolution of that crisis, so that there will be peace in the Balkans and in Europe."]

Albania's Kapllani, Levi Announce New Ties

TA1908094291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0859 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Statements by Albanian Foreign Affairs Minister Muhamet Kapllani and Foreign Minister David Levi following the signing of the agreement establishing diplomatic relations—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Kapllani, in English]...we talked about the prospect of our relations. We have just signed a memorandum of understanding establishing diplomatic relations between the Republic of Albania and the State of Israel. It was, as I said, a long pause in the relations between our states, so we have closed an empty long chapter and we have started a new fresh chapter in our relations. I hope that the relations of friendship and of cooperation between us will be fruitful and beneficial to our two countries and two peoples, to peace and security in the Mediterranean, such an important area, and also making our modest contribution to international peace and security. Thank you.

[Levi] Today we established relations between our two countries, Albania and Israel. We had an excellent talk. We spoke of areas of future cooperation. Our delegation will go to Albania after we coordinate the areas of cooperation between us. I believe this is a very special day, in which my colleague, Mr. Kapllani, is visiting Jerusalem as the first Albanian foreign minister to sign an agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Albania and Israel. I have no doubt that the cooperation between us is not only imperative, but will be strong and based on the free decisions of both countries, Albania and Israel, to not only establish formal diplomatic relations, but also to cooperate in many common areas.

Again, I welcome him here. As he said last night, he came as a friend, representing a friendly government and a friendly people. In the name of the people and Government of Israel, I welcome him to Jerusalem, the city of peace, as a friendly guest of a friendly country. Welcome, and good luck.

'Classified' Peace Conference Demands Reported

TA1808192791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] At the conclusion of the cabinet meeting Foreign Minister David Levi said that the Israeli-U.S. understanding that the PLO will remain outside the political process is firm and valid. U.S. Secretary of State Baker will be briefed this week by his representatives who returned to Washington from Jerusalem after discussing Israel's demands, which are a condition for participation in the peace process. Baker will then decide whether to continue the contacts through his assistants or to return to our region himself next month. The document Israel prepared as a basis for an agreement with the Americans has reached our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, and he is reporting about it from the studio:

Classified—that is the note at the top left side of the draft memorandum of understanding, or letter of guarantees, as the U.S. Administration's representatives term it. Israel wants the Americans to sign a series of demands that will clarify the conditions under which we will participate in a peace conference. Deliberations are still under way, and there is a dispute over several clauses that the Americans find hard to digest. For instance, it is demanded that the United States ensure that it has no intention to resume relations with the PLO in the future. This comes on top of the agreement, already reached, that the PLO neither has, nor will have, any part in the current process. Israel also states that any declaration of solidarity with the PLO by the Palestinian representatives will relieve Israel of its commitment to participate in the conference. According to another clause of the letter of guarantees, the United States is supposed to declare its opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan. The settlements are not mentioned in the document, nor event hinted at. As for the territories, the only statement is that Israel is entitled to have secure and defensible borders, and that the 1967 borders do not fit that definition. In other words, Israel and the United States will announce there is no return to the Green Line, but that everything else, all borders and territories, are open to direct negotiations with the Arab countries. The document also stipulates that Jerusalem will not be redivided.

What about the goal of the conference? The first page of the document notes—and this is still a moot point—that the end product will be nothing other than peace treaties and full diplomatic relations with the Arab countries.

This is, all in all, a relatively short document, a considerable portion of which is already known and has not been quoted here. The document, in fact, leaves most of the technicalities involved in the peace conference for later, oral agreements. In the coming weeks James Baker will try to smooth the edges before he signs the document.

'Crisis of Confidence' With U.S. Reported

TA1808074191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
18 Aug 91 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem expressed strong displeasure following reliable reports that the United States promised the Arab states and the Palestinians support for their demand to include East Jerusalem residents in elections to autonomy institutions.

The U.S. promise was made as part of the efforts to convince the Palestinians to give up their demand that an East Jerusalem inhabitant be incorporated in the first stage of the talks. The political sources said that the reports about the U.S. promise contributed to the "crisis of confidence" developing between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the U.S. Administration over the U.S. effort to reach agreements with the Palestinians.

The sources added that Shamir decided at this stage not to react to the frequent contacts between the Palestinian negotiators, headed by Faysal al-Husayni, and senior PLO officials in European capitals and Tunis itself.

Nevertheless, it seems that the Americans do not plan to publicly recognize Palestinian demands for self-definition. A senior administration official made it clear in a meeting with Jewish leaders that the United States would not support such a demand since it would mean that the United States would not be able to dispute the Palestinian demand to set up an independent state, which the United States opposes.

Officials in Jerusalem last night said that no dramatic developments were expected in the coming week in the negotiations with the United States on "understandings" between the two states and that most U.S. efforts during that period would be directed at Jordan and the Palestinians. The officials said that after the Americans reach agreements with the Palestinians, they will come to understandings with Israel during a visit by Secretary of State James Baker to the region in early September or during Shamir's visit to Washington, which is due to take place some time that month.

The officials also said that in view of Israel's opposition to the showing of a "Palestinian flag" at the opening conference to peace talks, a proposal was raised not to have any flags on the tables but only nameplates of the delegations. It was also learned that in the talks the U.S. officials conducted last week in Jerusalem, they made it clear that while the United States plans to show the sides a draft of the invitation to the peace conference, it has no intention of conducting negotiations over the wording.

The United States also stands firm in its refusal to accept the Israeli demand that the bilateral understandings be anchored in a "memorandum of understanding" and only undertakes to hand over "a written statement of guarantees." Jerusalem believes that the main reason for the U.S. stand on that is its inability to sign a parallel "memorandum of understanding" with the Palestinians, who do not constitute a state capable of signing agreements. [passage omitted]

Political sources said that the U.S. efforts to reach an agreement with the Palestinians are once again creating a crisis of confidence between the prime minister and the U.S. Administration. They said that a similar crisis developed between the two sides prior to Shamir's negative answer to the "Baker questions" in March 1990 and the fall of the government that came in its wake.

It is also not clear in Jerusalem whether the Americans plan to include in the written statement of guarantees to be handed over to the Palestinians their commitment to include the East Jerusalem Arabs in elections for the autonomy institutions or whether it will be part of the "oral undertakings" the sides will agree upon.

Shamir's office views the U.S. commitment as a violation of Baker's promise that the United States would only serve as "a neutral mediator" between the parties. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that the United States always supported incorporating East Jerusalemites into the autonomy framework and that this issue was the main stumbling block in the autonomy talks between Israel and Egypt up to 1982.

At this stage, it is also not clear when the elections referred to are to be held. According to the Camp David accords, elections to the Palestinian self-governing institutions would take place only after all the autonomy components are agreed upon, but under the government's peace plan of May 1989, they are to be held at an earlier date to elect representatives to negotiate the autonomy arrangements.

Palestinian, Israeli NGO Groups Issue Manifesto

TA1408181891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Israeli and Palestinian representatives of nongovernmental organizations [NGO] held a news conference at the al-Hakawati Theater in East Jerusalem today, during which they presented a joint political manifesto conerning the peace process and the peace conference expected to be held in October.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the manifesto calls for convening an international conference with UN participation, halting settlement, and implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Dr. Mati Peled, Tawfiq Zayyad, Engineer Ibrahim al-Daqaq, and Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi took part in the news conference. A number of personalities, including Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, Dr. Anis al-Qaq, Latif Dori, 'Uzi

Burstein, and Knesset member 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah were present in the hall. The Citizens Right Movement, Shinuy, and Mapam refrained from signing the joint manifesto.

Levi Interviewed on Jerusalem Representation

TA1808110791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by political correspondent Arye Golan; on 18 August, outside the Prime Minister's Office—recorded]

[Text] [Levi] The understandings we have with the United States are well known and stand firm on solid ground. These understandings have not changed from the U.S. point of view, as the prime minister told us today as well.

[Golan] Are you not bothered by the fact that the same understandings, though still standing, are not anchored in a document, the widely discussed memorandum of understanding?
[Levi] Everything is just as agreed. When the issues are concluded, they will definitely be given to us in the form of a signed document. This is what we agreed with the secretary of state, and there is no need to pay attention to rumors of things that never happened.

[Golan] What about the issue of the representation of the Palestinians from East Jerusalem?
[Levi] No East Jerusalem representative will take part in the negotiations. This is Israel's solid position and it is agreed with the United States. Anything that contradicts these agreements and understandings only throws a spanner into the works. I hope that all the issues we have discussed, which are the components of peace, will be concluded. If the Palestinians do not want to take part and find and place obstacles for themselves, this would be their business. Israel wants peace with all the countries in the region. It offered a way to solve the Palestinian problem. If the Palestinians refuse to accept it, we are left to deal with the Arab countries who, as they say themselves, want peace negotiations with Israel.

Lubrani Briefs Shamir, Arens; No New Information

TA1608173291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Uri Lubrani, who handles the problem of our MIA's and POW's in Lebanon on the government's behalf, today briefed the defense minister and prime minister about the results of his contacts with the UN secretary and other elements in Geneva. Our political correspondent says that the reports indicate there is no new and reliable information on the fate of our people yet. It was again made clear to all elements involved that detainees in our hands will not be released if such information is not received. Jerusalem is now awaiting the outcome of the UN secretary's contacts, but the assessment is that a long time may still elapse before further progress is made.

Lubrani Interviewed on 'Ubayd, POW's

TA1708112791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Alan Ben-'Ami; place, date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Ben-'Ami] The focus, of course, has been on Lebanon, on Hizballah, which is holding Western and Israeli prisoners, but at least four Israeli servicemen are being held by pro-Syrian Palestinian factions. How much does this complicate the whole issue and complicate an exchange arrangement?
[Lubrani] Well, I think the secretary general is now aware of the complexity of this problem and will find, I am sure, the way to deal with it by approaching the right addresses. There is no point in my going into the mechanics of it but I think the secretary general is aware of different addresses for different prisoners of war.

[Ben-'Ami] And we are talking about a package deal? We are talking about the Western hostages, we are talking about the seven Israelis, information and return of those Israelis whatever condition they may be in?
[Lubrani] Absolutely, I say that this must be encompassed within a package deal which will include all Western hostages, all our prisoners of war, and get this problem once and for all off the agenda.

[Ben-'Ami] As I said we are talking about Lebanese demands, Palestinian demands. Israel will be prepared to offer Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners that it is holding?
[Lubrani] We were quite, I think, clear that we are talking about Lebanese prisoners in al-Khiyam and in Israeli prisons. We did not talk about anything else. I mean, this has to be abundantly clear. We are not talking about anything else, because otherwise we get into a political problem, and this is not a political problem; it is a humanitarian problem and we would like to keep it that.

[Ben-'Ami] What about demands for the release of Shiite prisoners being held in European jails? The Syrian foreign minister lately said he would like to see Syrians being held by Israel set free as well, although he did not exactly say whose these Syrians are.
[Lubrani] I would like to make it clear that we are talking about Lebanese prisoners, presently in al-Khiyam facility or in Israeli jails. Only Lebanese prisoners. That is the only category we are talking about. I found the secretary general well-briefed about prisoners held by European countries. He knows the problem and I am sure he will find a way of dealing with it. This is not our problem. We are concerned with our POW's and the

Lebanese prisoners presently held in al-Khiyam facilities and in our prisons. That is our concern.

[Ben-'Ami] How many people are we talking about here? How many are held in al-Khiyam, how many does Israel hold?
[Lubrani] We are talking about a few scores in Israel and between 250 and 300 held in al-Khiyam.

[Ben-'Ami] You said that Israel regards firm, solid, evidence regarding the whereabouts and the condition of its missing servicemen. What constitutes firm, solid evidence? How will you establish the credibility, how will you verify that the evidence you are getting can be relied on?
[Lubrani] Well, this is a very technical question, but what I can tell you about this is that the secretary general and his associates know exactly what we need and know exactly what to ask the side to produce. It would be futile on my part to go into these technicalities, but there are technical ways of making sure and of identifying people and of making sure that we are talking about the right people, and that is the information we want from the other side.

[passage omitted] [Ben-'Ami] The stress is very clearly on the humanitarian side to this whole issue, whether it involves Western hostages, Israelis, or Lebanese. Just this week, for example, we saw the family of Shaykh 'Ubayd sending a message to their father. Has he seen that here? Have you allowed him to see pictures of his family? Is he being held in isolation here?
[Lubrani] He is being held in exactly the same way as our prisoners are being held. And as I said before, I think that we will be very happy to let an ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] representative visit Shaykh 'Ubayd, on condition that our prisoners are being visited by them too. I mean, this is a very cruel world and we have to be very clear about the way we are dealing with it. We are not seeking to keep him in isolation or to abuse him. He is being treated very well, but you must realize that Shaykh 'Ubayd was involved in terrorist activities in south Lebanon, and he is not a simple cleric. He was a centerpiece in planning terrorist activities from south Lebanon into the security zone and Israel, and it is for this reason that he is being kept. We appreciate the fact that his family of course is anxious, our families are anxious too, and I think that it is high time that all this misery and agony and anguish should be stopped. [passage omitted]

Arens' Adviser Rejects Hizballah Demand

TA1808193391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Hizballah leaders in Lebanon this evening demanded that Israel make a gesture to promote the negotiations for the release of hostages. Hizballah leader Shaykh Husayn Fadlallah said this evening that the ball is in the U.S. court, and that the United States should pressure Israel into making a gesture. [passage omitted] In reaction to Hizballah's demand, the defense minister's media adviser says that no one has the moral right to demand that Israel make a gesture, since those who hold the Israeli POW's and MIA's did not even do the basic, humanitarian act of furnishing information about them. He added that 40 detainees were released from the al- Khiyam jail last year, but the Shiites did not respond with any gesture.

Arens on Hostages, Jewish Settlement in Hebron

TA1808180191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has expressed the hope that the UN secretary general's assessment that the hostages will be released within a few weeks will come true. In a talk with our correspondent Moti Amir, Minister Arens emphasized that Israel gave the United Nations all the information necessary to help Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

[Begin recording] [Arens] We have received no additional information. We are still awaiting information on our MIA's and POW's.

[Amir] In other words, do we leave the entire issue in Perez de Cuellar's hands?

[Arens] I would not say we leave everything to anyone. For years we have acted and will continue to act to obtain the return our people home. Still, we are surely ready and willing to help the UN secretary general, and we wait to see if he can solve the problem. [end recording]

In the afternoon the defense minister met with the Avihay nucleus of the BETAR [Herut Youth] Movement, which settled in the BETAR seminary in Hebron. Minister Arens told the nucleus' members that their mission is historic and emphasizes BETAR's contribution to the revival of Jewish settlement in Hebron.

The defense minister toured the Judaea region this afternoon, and our correspondent Moti Amir accompanied him.

[Begin recording] [Amir] Defense Minister Arens, the commander of the Central Command, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, and senior Judaea and Samaria officers today toured the Bethlehem and Hebron areas. The defense minister stopped near the al-Khidr village, at the site where a bomb was thrown at the Hershko family's car a short while ago, and he heard of the incident from the region's commanders. In Hebron Minister Arens met with BETAR's Avihay nucleus, which numbers about 30 members. This group is a nucleus of the Nahal Brigade that settled in the BETAR seminary in Hebron and whose members will be engaged in the construction of Jews' houses in Hebron and in the absorption of aliyah. Against the background of the political process and the efforts to convene a regional peace conference, Minister Arens told the nucleus' members that their acts symbolize Zionism for him.

[Arens, in progress] ....the fact that riots, violence, and murders cannot put an end to our presence on this land. The mission is not only to help revive Jewish settlement in Hebron, but also to help achieve normal relations between Jews and Arabs in Hebron.

[Amir] The nucleus members will start their voluntary service at the beginning of next month. [end recording]

'Sources' Doubt Hostage Affair Resolved in Aug

TA1808044291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Sources in the defense establishment say they do not believe the problems connected with the hostage and prisoner exchange will be solved by the end of the month. They were commenting on a statement by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar who said the affair would be over within two weeks. The sources added that they hoped that the secretary general had reasons for his optimism.

Commentary Views Hostage Affair as 'Scheme'

TA1608113291 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Aug 91 p B12

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "A Trick in Beirut"]

[Excerpts] In August 1989, Yitzhaq Shamir telephoned President George Bush and promised him that Israel would release Shaykh 'Ubayd if the U.S. hostages in Lebanon were also freed.

In August 1991, Bush did not phone Shamir and did not promise to include the release of the Israeli POW's and MIA's in any deal to free the hostages. A telephone promise was superfluous for two reasons:

A. Because President Bush continues to claim that the United States does not make deals with terrorists.

B. The key to the deal the Islamic Jihad offered the UN secretary general (Shaykh 'Ubayd and his cohorts) is held by Israel.

Bush did not call, but from his holiday resort he made several public remarks which could encourage the Jihad and create the impression that he identifies with their demand that Israel free its detainees without being promised anything in return. Two days later, the President did in fact try to correct his remarks. In his initial reaction, however, Bush did not make do with a call to release the hostages in all the countries in the region (and by making that equation, he indirectly attacked Israel); he also suggested a linkage between the Palestinian issue—which is the top priority of the fanatical kidnappers in Lebanon—and the hostage problem.

This is a distorted assumption which suits Bush's desire to put the Palestinian issue to the top of the agenda. Anybody reading the message the terrorists disseminated, with the generous assistance of the UN secretary general, cannot be a partner to that mistaken evaluation. The letter seethes with hatred of the "great devil" called the United States. It suits Bush to say that the U.S. peace initiative is responsible for Iranian and Syrian support on the hostage issue, but Iran is not being helpful; it is trying to collect its ransom.

The U.S. President obviously knows that 10 months ago, even before James Baker began his trips to the region, the Iranian Government approached Israel with a proposed deal for a mutual release of prisoners and detainees. The Swiss mediator asked that the Iranian offer and the fact that Israel agreed to free 40 Lebanese detainees as a goodwill gesture prior to the negotiations be kept secret. The U.S. Administration also knew that Israel received nothing from the Iranians and their supporters in Lebanon in return for its gesture, as had been promised. On the other hand, several months ago, the U.S. Administration monitored the public statement by the Iranian foreign minister that he is prepared "to act to bring about the release of the hostages in Lebanon in return for U.S. pressure on Israel to achieve the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd and the Muslims held in Israel." [passage omitted]

It is not inconceivable that the current Iranian-Syrian hostage affair scheme is aimed at exploiting the fact that the United States has grown weary of Israel and at blaming Israel for the detention of the U.S. hostages. That media offensive has now been contained, thanks in part to the unity shown by the Israeli coalition and opposition over the concern for the Israeli prisoners in Lebanon, but the campaign did cause some damage.

Heading the damage list were President Bush's lamentable remarks, which created a distorted equation between the kidnappings perpetrated by the Shiite terrorists and the legal detentions carried out by the Israeli authorities within the framework of the war against terrorism. The remarks contributed to the world media's pressure on Israel to abandon its prisoners in order to rescue the others in Lebanon.

Syria and Iran still compete between themselves in exploiting the hostages in Lebanon in order to extort favors from the United States. Iran would prefer that Washington release the billions of dollars it has frozen in the United States in return for the freeing of the U.S. hostages. At present, however, it is prepared to settle for less. Iran and Syria are content with the praise Bush has lavished on them for their assistance, while ignoring the part they have played in guiding the kidnappers in their blackmailing activities.

The closer we come to the opening of the regional conference, the more we will see Syrian and Iranian acrobatics in Lebanon—whether direct or by remote control—in order to bring U.S. pressure to bear on Israel.... and not only on the hostage issue. The strategic planning of the two countries is designed to escalate U.S. pressure on Israel, which in turn is meant to lead to a gradual change in the U.S. political lineup in the region. That is the warning signal that was set off in Jerusalem this week by the Iranian-Syrian exercise in Beirut.

Likud Knesset Delegation To Visit Egypt

TA1808194591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Excerpt] A delegation of the Likud Knesset faction will leave for an official visit to Egypt next month. The delegation will be led by Sara Doron, the head of the Likud Knesset faction. The official host of the delegation will be Butrus Ghali, the deputy prime minister, and the delegation will probably meet with President Mubarak. This is reported by our correspondent in the Knesset Ya'aqov Ahime'ir. [passage omitted]

Delegation Leaves

TA1808075691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] This morning, the nine-member Likud delegation left for Egypt, where they will hold a series of meetings with senior Egyptian officials. This evening they will meet the Egyptian foreign minister and will suggest that a joint peace forum be set up and that reciprocal visits by members of the leading parties in Egypt and Israel be held. Prior to their departure the delegation members stressed that they will not ask that Mubarak meet Shamir.

Egyptian Ambassador in Israel Muhammad Basyuni arrived this morning at the Likud headquarters in Mezudat Ze'ev in Tel Aviv to bid the delegation goodbye. He told them that he believes that the dialogue between Egyptians and Israelis of the entire political spectrum is of great importance, especially now that we are so close to the convening of the peace conference. This was reported by our correspondent Ge'ula Even.

Sharon Reacts to Palestinian-PLO Meeting

TA1808150691 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Studio interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by Dan Margalit—live]

[Excerpt] [Margalit] We have heard that the right-wing ministers suggest that the Palestinian representatives who visited London [and met with PLO officials] be detained. If you too believe so, why?

[Sharon] I said a long time ago that they should be detained and deported from Israel. I am talking about people who have stood behind acts of murder and terror for many years now, and it is a pity this was not done on time.

[Margalit] Are you saying this regardless of the London meetings?

[Sharon] This should have been done a long while ago, whenever the opportunities arose. These are people who stand behind the murder of Jews and innocent Arabs. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni's PLO Meetings Under Investigation

TA1808183391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The attorney general and the police inspector general will check to see whether Faysal al-Husayni and Hannan 'Ashrawi have violated the law in their meetings with PLO officials overseas. This is reported by our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov. During today's cabinet meeting Ministers Yuval Ne'eman and Rehav'am Ze'evi demanded that al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi be put on trial if it transpires that they met with PLO representatives in London. Our political correspondent reports that Ne'eman and Ze'evi ask that the two be interrogated upon their return to Israel and that law be applied to them as it was to Abie Nathan [who met with PLO officials.

Levi's Bureau Denies Gulf Ambassadors Meeting

TA1808094691 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 Aug 91 p 4

[Excerpt] The MASR AL-FATAH [name as published] newspaper reports that Foreign Minister David Levi met secretly in Cairo on 31 July with ambassadors from the Gulf states.

The report quoted "high-level diplomatic sources" as saying that Levi informed the ambassadors of Israel's desire to conduct organized and public meetings at foreign ministers' level with senior officials from the Gulf states at a place to be agreed on by the sides.

The foreign minister's bureau said in reply that there was no such meeting during Levi's visit to Egypt or at any other time. [passage omitted]

Syria Refuses To Raise Golan Druze Visit Quota

TA1808094491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The Damascus authorities have rejected a request to raise the number of Golan Druze allowed to visit Syria and set the quota at 120 visitors a year. They will be allowed to visit Syria in four groups of 30 each. This was reported by Avino'am Yehezqeli, the director of the Population Register office in the north.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar adds that this decision means that many Golan Druze will have to wait more than five years before they are allowed to visit relatives in Syria. Damascus gave no official explanation for its refusal to raise the quota.

Cabinet Briefed on Turkey Water Conference, Iraq

TA1808142691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Syria will refuse to participate in an international water conference in Turkey in November if Israel also attends it. Our political correspondent Arye Golan says that a report on the Syrian position was given during the weekly cabinet meeting. The water conference in Turkey was initiated by Joyce Starr, a U.S. director of an institute for solving world water problems.

It was also reported in the cabinet that the fourth UN inquiry commission on Iraq discovered that the Iraqis achieved a significant level in their development of nuclear and biological weapons, and that the surface-to-surface missiles were not eliminated yet. There is a gap of hundreds of missiles between what Iraq declared and what the UN inquiry commission discovered. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1230 GMT on 18 August reports that "Jordan, unlike Syria, will attend the water conference even if an Israeli delegation is present. The cabinet today also learned that the United States began to unfreeze some of the aid to Jordan that had been frozen due to Jordan's support for Iraq during the Gulf war."]

'Successful' Barak Antimissile Missile Test Ends

TA1708154991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The Israeli Aircraft Industries and the Armament Development Authority completed another successful experiment of the Barak antimissile missile. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that this was the first experiment with the missile under sea conditions, and all its systems operated as planned. The Barak missile is being developed for the Navy and can be mounted on boats of various sizes. Foreign sources once reported that the missile weighs 98 kg, its warhead weighs 28 kg, it can reach a velocity of Mach 2, and its effective range is between 0.5 and 12 km.

Results 'Considered a Hit'

TA1808053091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Excerpts] The first experimental naval launch of the advanced Barak missile was successful. The missile passed very close to its target, a simulated enemy missile launched at the Navy ship. This was the first experiment of the Barak in sea conditions, and it tested the various elements of the system. [passage omitted]

On Friday [16 August], the Barak system was set up on a missile boat. The target was identified by the radar system, and the missile was launched at it. The Barak, which was not armed with a warhead, came very close to the target. In operational mode the missile is equipped with an advanced proximity fuse. The proximity the Barak reached in the experiment is considered a hit. Had the missile been armed, the proximity fuse would have detonated the warhead and the fragments would have destroyed the target.

The Navy intends to place Barak systems on its advanced Saar-5 missile boats, which are being currently built in U.S. shipyards. [passage omitted]

Paramilitary Youth Organization To Join IDF

TA1808101891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Aug 91 p 1

[Report by Alon Pinkus]

[Text] Gadna [paramilitary youth organization] will cease to exist as an independent command and be merged with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Education Corps, under a proposal by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Baraq which has been accepted by Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

Gadna, an independent command since the inception of the state in 1948, will now be a part of the Education Corps' Department of Special Population Groups.

The change will result in a 30 percent cut in officer positions, as well as a savings of millions of shekels.

Gadna was recently in the news when haredi [ultraorthodox] circles demanded that its graduation ceremonies not be held at the Western Wall, because the girls are dressed indecently.

Airlift of Ethiopian Jews To Resume Next Week

TA1608184891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1705 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] A new and almost final stage in getting Ethiopian Jewry to Israel will begin next week. An agreement was reached this morning between the Israeli Foreign Ministry and the Ethiopian authorities making it possible to fly to Israel, within a few days, most of the Jews who still live there. This operation does not include the Christianized Ethiopian Jews, although their case also is receiving intensive treatment by the Israeli Government. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports:

Since Operation Solomon about three months ago, the Israeli Foreign Ministry has quietly but continuously pursued contacts aimed at bringing the remaining Ethiopian Jewry to Israel. At the same time, efforts have been made to locate all Jews in Addis Ababa and the villages in the Gondar region, hundreds of kilometers from the capital. Asher Na'im, Israel's ambassador to Ethiopia, held talks with President Meles Zenawi, and Foreign Minister David Levi met with Jewish organizations representatives in Israel and abroad to obtain their cooperation and aid. All this was done in coordination with the U.S. Administration.

As said, the final agreement was reached this morning, and next week the Ethiopian airline will begin to fly the Jews, about 2,600 of them, on civilian commercial flights. About 600 Jews who are already concentrated in Addis Ababa will arrive first. They will all be here prior to Rosh Hashana [9 September]. About 2,000 more will be moved from the villages to the capital and flown out of Ethiopia, with the authorities agreeing to facilitate the exit arrangements. The Foreign Ministry leadership brought the Jewish Agency into the picture on all absorption arrangements in Israel. All in all, the number of immigrants from Ethiopia will stand at about 40,000 following this stage. Almost all the Ethiopian Jewry will be here very soon then. Remaining behind still are 1,500 or perhaps more Jews who are located in the K'orahe region, access to which is difficult today due to rebel control and weather conditions. Remaining behind too are many thousands of Jews who converted to Christianity. Israel, it seems, has not abandoned them. Their problem is receiving intensive treatment, and the religious establishment is today inclined to make matters easier with regard to their Jewishness. It seems that within a short while, days or weeks, decisions will be made and criteria established to make it possible to sort these Jews out and determine who among them has the right to immigrate to Israel.

Government To Study Poland's Extradition Request

TA1808155091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Poland has approached Israel via Interpol, asking for the extradition of businessman Boguslaw Bagsik, who is suspected of corrupt dealings in Poland. He is believed to have escaped to Israel with a very large sum of money, because he wanted to buy shares of the Paz oil company. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the extradition request reached the police's national headquarters, but as there is no extradition treaty between Israel and Poland, the police are consulting the Justice Ministry on the matter.

Ambassador in Moscow Interviewed on Situation

JN1908131191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1118 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Telephone interview with Jordanian Ambassador to Moscow Dr. Muhammad 'Affash al-'Adwan by Wadi' Qusus "a short while ago"—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Qusus] Can you tell us about the current atmosphere in the Soviet capital?
[Al-'Adwan] Yes, brother. This morning President Gorbachev, who is on a leave, was ousted. He is now under detention in his country house and contacts with him have been cut off. Those who carried out the coup are his colleagues, under Vice Chairman Yanayev. [passage omitted]

Apparently, there is very clear military and security influence in this new ruling committee. This morning, activity in the streets was normal. At 0800 today we took a walk through the streets of Moscow, and things looked normal. However, after attending a news conference called by Boris Yeltsin, president of the Federal Republic of Russia, I noticed, while in my way back, an intense military presence in all the streets, especially near the Russian Parliament building, where President Yeltsin and the republic's ministers work. [passage omitted]

In Leningrad, the second largest city after Moscow, and whose mayor is considered to be an opponent of the Communist Party, the Soviet Army seems to be in full control. There are no reports on any riots. It seems as though there has been no practical reaction from the citizens, who have been taken by surprise. We are waiting now. The embassy, of course, is working. All embassies are working. So far, matters look normal, with a feeling of extreme tension being displayed by all parties, as everyone is waiting to see what will happen. [passage omitted]

[Qusus] What about the position of the Soviet military on the move that took place in Moscow this morning? Can you shed some more light on that?
[Al-'Adwan] It seems as though entire military groups, which are represented on the ruling committee by their heads, are satisfied with what has happened—the coup that is. The Soviet military presence is apparent in all cities, especially in the areas which are expected to oppose the coup. [passage omitted]

[Qusus] My last question: Do you expect this morning's drastic change in the Soviet Union will have a significant effect on Soviet foreign policy?
[Al-'Adwan] Undoubtedly, if this coup proves successful and the current government and ruling committee manage to stay in power, this change will tangibly affect Soviet foreign policy. Apparently, Western reaction so far seems to express dissatisfaction with what has happened. Many of them were shocked. This, I am sure, will reflect in relations between the Soviet Union and these states, and, consequently, between the Soviet Union and many states in the world. Actually, it is premature to predict what will happen in this regard, but, undoubtedly, this change will have drastic and actual effects on Soviet foreign policy.

[Qusus] Thank you, Dr. Muhammad al-'Adwan, Jordanian ambassador in Moscow.

Husayn Interview on Syria Visit, Joint Delegation

JN1608181591 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn said that the regional political developments are so rapid that further contacts and coordination are called for to tackle these developments. In an interview with the VISNEWS Agency, his majesty the king added that he would visit Syria in the next few days for this purpose. Here are highlights of that interview:

[Begin recording in English] [Husayn] They were moving rapidly. And I think that the visits of Secretary Baker and the visits of many friends to this area have been extremely constructive, and have given us an indication that the United States is very anxious to see progress on this matter. Certainly, the president and the secretary of state share this view. And I believe this stems from the feeling that the United States can contribute towards a solution of the problem and has a greater responsibility now in this new world in which we live, and a greater potential to do so than was the case in the past, when this problem was a part of the cold war, or whatever you may call it in regard to the very recent past, [words indistinct]. The Palestinian dimension is a very, very important one. And we agree that the Palestinians themselves can and are, well, people who can select the delegation to represent them, and certainly starting with the first phase, which is that of arranging for self-government in terms of the territories, or territories occupied in June 1967. We have no preference if they went on their own or chose otherwise, but to facilitate what we believe our difficulties, we have offered the umbrella under which a Jordanian delegation would work alongside the Palestinian delegation in dealing with the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of the problem. And we are working with them on the affairs that affect Jordan, obviously separately, but also in regard to Jordan, Palestine, and the whole region, we will look at water and other problems that exist there. And thirdly, within the context of the regional dimension, which is also opening up, and I believe is a very important development of the participation of countries, not immediately surrounding Israel, but, the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] and others.

[Unidentified reporter] So, basically, if a decision has been made yet, if Palestinians do not go, is Jordan prepared to go alone?
[Husayn] I have the feeling that the Palestinians must go, and the Palestinians will go. And I believe that there is a lot of soul-searching going on. But, on the other hand, let us be very, very clear. I mean, I cannot see any leadership

in these extremely difficult and critical times where people are affected and people are suffering, and we have seen, God knows, enough of that here, and enough of that as a result of developments in this region, as well as in the occupied territories that people can procrastinate or hang on to old cliches and taboos, when there is really such a problem with such a magnitude that needs to be addressed. So, I hope that there will not be any problems, things [words indistinct].

[Reporter] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected here soon. What advice will you give him?
[Husayn] Well, he is expected. He has always been welcome to come to Jordan whenever he chose. But, I believe that matters are moving so rapidly that there is obviously a need for such a visit or for contacts to be more intense in the time ahead. I will not presume to give anyone any advice. We are offering the opportunity of the umbrella if they choose to; by that I mean, the Palestinian people, who have within the Palestinian context to decide what they wish for a delegation to join us under that umbrella.

[Reporter] Do you have any firm plans to visit Egypt soon, or Syria?
[Husayn] Possibly Syria in the next few days, if an opportunity arises. I have no plans at the moment to visit Egypt, but I have sought to open the way, regardless of any personal feelings I might have had as a result of the trauma all of us passed through during the past year to suggest that it is time, and it is necessary, for our people at least, to begin to coordinate and compare notes and work together for the attainment of a just and honorable peace and the fulfillment of a life-long dream—not for us, but for generations to come—of peace and security in this entire region, for all.

[Reporter] Perhaps we can talk of some of Jordan's immediate problems, when [word indistinct] thousands of Jordanians who are still being forced out of the Gulf and Kuwait. How is Jordan going to cope with that?
[Husayn] By God's help and by the will of the people of Jordan; by our determination to keep our heads high and act as human beings and as civilized people. After all, many of them are our people and they are coming back. Many of them are hoping to transit to the occupied territories, and they are doing so. Many are facing a real problem because they have the right to return to Gaza, but are not permitted to go back through Egypt. So, if we can secure somehow a chance and opportunity for them to get back home through Jordan, we will look at that again and see what we can do. Many are coming by air. Now conditions are terrible, really shocking, in terms of the long nightmare that they have endured; in terms of their condition; in terms of what they are coming out with; in terms of the suffering; in terms of the physical signs of inhuman treatment that they have been subjected to in some cases; in terms of the human tragedy and its dimension. And some are apparently on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, and have been thrown out of there amongst many other nationalities. So, we have sent a team down there to see who they are and to bring them back home as rapidly as we can. The number has exceeded 270,000 so far, and add to that the fact that we have many Iraqis down in Jordan who are also in very, very difficult conditions, seeking medical help, seeking a change, seeking an opportunity for life. So, here we are with [changes thought]... we came out of the first economic crisis about a couple of years ago, which affected all of us due to the fact that Arab states were not able to fulfill their commitments to this country, which is the reflection of what happens on the Palestinian level, and has been time and again. This is our third wave of people moving to Jordan. We used to receive them from the Gulf in the good times, and we are going to receive them as well, to the best of our ability, this time and cope with them and with their problems and share with them everything—all that we can share with. And it is delightful to see those who arrive and the sudden smiles despite their haggard faces that, in many cases, have not seen the sun, it seems, for months and months. Some of them are coming back maybe, having lived there and having helped to contribute and build whatever existed there and whatever exists there. Some of them are third generation. Some of them are, and have been there, for three generations already. But they are coming home, and they are welcome.

[Reporter] You recently spoke to the ambassadors of Europe and North America and Japan. Have you, or do you, plan to ask the international community for concrete help for the returnees?
[Husayn] We need help. We will do whatever we can, but I do not think that the world realizes what is still continuing to happen in this region. And it basically stems from a lack of respect for human rights, and I am advocating in the future a real serious effort to concentrate on that dimension, to have a charter for human rights in this entire region. But more than that, we need help, physically. We simply cannot continue to take all the strains from every direction with very limited resources available. I think we are doing a wonderful job, but it is impossible for this to continue without their help, but more so the moral weight to do what is needed. [end recording]

Departs for Talks With al-Asad

JN1908104891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for Damascus this morning on a short working visit to the Syrian Arab Republic during which he will meet with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in order to continue the exchange of viewpoints and consultation on the latest efforts to find a political settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

His majesty was seen off at the airport by His Highness Prince Hasan, the crown prince; Prince 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn; the Senate president; the speaker of the House of Representatives; the political adviser to his majesty the king; his majesty's private secretary; the deputy prime minisrter; the ministers; the chief of staff; the public security director; and a number of ranking civil and military officials.

His Highness Prince Hasan was sworn in before His Majesty King Husayn and the ministers as regent during the king's absence.

His majesty is accompanied by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, Royal Hashemite Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur.

Importance of Coordination Stressed

JN1908134891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Aug 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Husayn's Visit to Syria and the Desired Arab Cooperation"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn will visit sisterly Syria today to meet with President al-Asad as an embodiment of his sharp vision and deep faith in the need for coordination among the Arab frontline states to forge a unified Arab position to adhere to at the peace conference and in the peaceful settlement. The king will meet with al-Asad for consultations and for an exchange of views on issues that could occupy the largest and most serious part of the peace negotiations, especially since Israel is still insisting on impossible conditions that may affect the continuation of the peace process or blow it up completely. Moreover, the U.S. Administration is unprepared to pressure Israel into abandoning its hard-line position and to show the flexibility needed for a successful and peaceful settlement process, especially since Israel may try to exploit Arab differences and the absence of the Palestinian-Arab coordination. The Arabs would then participate in the peace conference from a weak rather than a strong position, and would be unable to improve their negotiating position. Therefore, His Majesty King Husayn hastened to open channels and extend bridges to the Arab frontline states. He also intensified consultations with the PLO. His visit to Syria is part of the efforts he is undertaking in the Arab arena, especially since Jordanian-Syrian coordination is necessitated by the pan-Arab requirements and the higher interests of the Arab nation, which is struggling to restore the usurped Arab territories and rights.

Jordanian-Syrian coordination is an important and necessary step to broaden coordination with the other Arab parties concerned with the settlement. Since each Arab frontline state would hold direct negotiations with Israel after the inauguration of the first session of the peace conference, constant Palestinian and Arab coordination is demanded to forge unified positions so as to speak in one language and avoid conflicting Arab stances which lead to retreat and collapse. Based on this concept, His Majesty King Husayn sought, and is still seeking, consultation with other Arab parties in the hope of forging unified positions toward different issues that are likely to be discussed at the peace conference.

We believe that Jordanian and Syrian awareness of the importance of coordination and cooperation on this level would contribute to the success of Husayn's visit to Damascus and to the attainment of the aspired results.

Al-Nusur Confirms Not Going Alone to Talks

JN1808071791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Aug 91 pp 1, 24

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur confirmed that Jordan has not changed its declared position that it will not go alone [munfaridan] to the peace conference.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y last night, he said that Jordan would not go alone or jointly [muzdawajan], that there would be no peace unless a comprehensive and complete solution to the Palestine question were achieved, and that all parties, including the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, should participate together and at the same time. [sentence as published] This is Jordan's position, he said.

He added: We are searching for a comprehensive solution to the Palestine question and all bilateral issues. This solution, he said, should be complete and should not be delivered in installments.

He said: We are not interested in peace only for ourselves. Peace should be enjoyed by all states and parties involved, including the PLO, and should cover all issues.

It has been learned that some foreign media organs have claimed that Jordan will participate in the peace conference whether the PLO does or not.

Dr. al-Nusur will meet with PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab this morning. The Palestinian ambassador in Amman will attend.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, al-Najjab said he was carrying a message from the Palestinian leadership to the Jordanian Government.

He added: My visit to Jordan is part of consultations and joint action between Jordan and the PLO.

He declared that the moves involving the two sides are based on a joint policy and on an understanding of the peace process and the goal of the proposed peace conference to apply international resolutions guaranteeing Israel's withdrawal from all the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, as well as the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Further on Talks, Representation

JN1808202291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur stressed that Jordan will not go to the Middle East peace conference except through an Arab agreement involving the countries concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict. During a meeting of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee today, Dr. al-Nusur said Jordan will not relinquish any right or any legitimate demand. He said international legitimacy is the basis of any peaceful solution to the region's issues.

The minister also stressed that Jordan adheres to the basic constants: The Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their national soil; full Israeli withdrawal from east Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza; and concentration on the Palestine question in the conference. He pointed out that the current political situation in the region is very difficult, especially after the Gulf crisis and the subsequent economic, political, and geographic problems.

PLO Official: Guarantees Needed for Participation

JN1908090991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Aug 91 p 19

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab said yesterday the PLO is ready to participate in a real peace process that guarantees international legitimacy. He said that the form of Palestinian participation in the proposed peace conference depends on the PLO receiving the guarantees it asked for prior to the conference from the concerned parties.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, al-Najjab said: We are serious about reaching a political settlement, but will the conference be an arena for reneging international legitimacy or for entrenching it? This is the content of the guarantees we want to get.

Al-Najjab arrived in Amman on Saturday on an official visit of several days. He held talks yesterday with Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur on the current peace efforts, bilateral coordination, and preparations for an expected visit to Jordan by Yasir 'Arafat.

Dr. al-Nusur had earlier told AL-DUSTUR that the Jordanian Government was still waiting for an answer from the PLO on its position toward the peace process and participation in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

For his part, al-Najjab stressed that the PLO will find a suitable form for participation in the peace conference that will facilitate the peace process when it receives the requested guarantees. He explained that these guarantees include an assurance that Israel will withdraw from all the territories it occupied in 1967. The PLO wants a clear and explicit gurantee on the withdrawal and a halt to the Israeli settlement drive in the occupied territories, and it wants incremental arrangements that guarantee Palestinian sovereignty on land and water resources and the implementation of international legitimacy and all UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestine problem.

The PLO also insists on naming the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations and that this delegation include Palestinians from inside and outside [the occupied territories], including Jerusalem; that the PLO be the reference for the Palestinian delegation; and that the Palestine question be part of all phases of the peace process.

Al-Najjab said that the PLO prefers to participate with a delegation on an equal footing but the shape of participation, whether within an Arab delegation or a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, depends on the response of the U.S. Administration and other parties in providing the guarantees. He said: The issue of who represents the Palestinians is not subject to discussion. We do not accept anyone raising the issue with us because the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The PLO accepted a joint Arab delegation and a joint delegation with Jordan, but our position is that the PLO should form and declare the composition of the delegation. This is an indisputable fact.

Another Palestinian source said the PLO still insists on an independent Palestinian delegation in the absence of clarity on the contents of the peace process and that the PLO seeks Arab and international support for the idea of an independent Palestinian representation, as well as Arab guarantees on the contents of the peace process before the conference convenes.

Al-Najjab said a reply on the composition of the Palestinian representation is not with the PLO, but with the parties that are able to provide the guarantees. He asked: Let us ask ourselves and others why the U.S. Administration insists on keeping the PLO, Palestinians from outside the occupied territories, and Jerusalem away from the international conference? This is in line with the American and the Israeli concept of the Palestinian question. Therefore, any solutions they submit are less than the Camp David accords.

He added that the American-Israeli game is to indulge in formalities and to avoid speaking about the content of the problem and the peace process. We and Jordan insist on the content and on searching for a suitable shape to this content. He explained that the conspiracy aims at liquidating the Palestinian people's rights. All Palestinians inside and outside have to confront this conspiracy and to defend their rights because the Israeli scheme, with which the U.S. Administration sympathizes, is to strike off any right for the Palestinians living outside the occupied territories and to liquidate the cause of refugees before the peace conference begins.

Egypt, Syria Agree To Preconference Arab Talks

JN1908062891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Aug 91 pp 1, 5

[By Sana' 'Atiyah, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Amman—Syria and Egypt have accepted to attend a meeting of the five "confrontation Arab parties" before the proposed Middle East peace conference in October, a senior Palestine Liberation Organistion (PLO) official said Sunday.

PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab said that Syria told a visiting Palestinian delegation last month it was ready to take part in a meeting that would include the PLO, Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon to coordinate a united position before the peace conference starts.

"During our last visit to Syria a month ago, they told us that they would attend such a meeting," Mr. al-Najjab told the Jordan Times. "Egypt had expressed its rediness for the meeting before that," he added.

The PLO had called for the meeting of the four Arab countries neighbouring Israel and the PLO to coordinate strategy vis-a-vis the peace conference called for by the U.S. and the Soviet Union to be held in October.

Jordan accepted the idea from the beginning and Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri earlier this month called for speedy moves to convene the meeting as soon as possible.

"Syria previously had some reservations over this meeting," Mr. al-Najjab told the Jordan Times. The proposed gathering, he said, will aim at arriving at a united Arab position in peace talks with Israel and committing all Arab parties involved to that position.

The Gulf crisis created deep differences among Egypt, Syria and Lebanon—which sided with the U.N.-led coalition against Iraq—on the one hand and Jordan and the PLO who opposed a military solution to the Gulf crisis.

Analysts say that it is a foregone conclusion that Syria's acceptance to take part in the meeting means Lebanon will follow suit.

Mr. al-Najjab would not comment on the form and timing of the meeting.

"When the time comes, we'll see," said Mr. al-Najjab, who leads the Palestinian Communist Party, which was given a seat in the PLO Executive Committee in 1987.

Earlier Sunday, the PLO official met with Prime Minister al-Masri and Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur during which he delivered a message from the PLO leadership to the Jordanian Government. Mr. al- Najjab would not elaborate on the details of the message.

However, he said the purpose of his visit was also to pave the way for a visit by a high-ranking PLO delegation that would coordinate the organisation's position on the peace conference with Jordan.

Jordan has offered a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to take part in the conference, and the scheduled visit by the PLO delegation, which may include Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, is expected to focus on the form of the delegation and agreement on the outcome of the conference.

Mr. al-Najjab said the focus of his talks Sunday was on "the content of the peace process and not the form of the delegation because we are flexible as long as the content of the gathering is Palestinian rights, including the right to self-determination, Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war—including Jerusalem—the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and international legitimacy."

Mr. al-Najjab also said that the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, which is based in the occupied Gaza Strip, hs rejected participating in a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC), expected to be convened in Algiers on Sept. 15.

"We contacted the Hamas leadership and invited them to a preparatory meeting for the PNC session, but they refused," Mr. al- Najjab said.

His Majesty King Husayn said recently that he planned to visit Damascus soon for talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The 450-member PNC will elect a new seventh council, which includes the presidency, the Executive Committee and representatives from PLO factions.

Hamas had demanded a quota for its representation in the PNC, but Mr. al-Najjab would not comment whether the PLO rejected Hamas' proposals.

"There will be indepenent representatives from those in the diaspora and new faces in the Palestinian organisation (in the upcoming elections)," Mr. al-Najjab said.

He added that the PNC meeting "would either support or reject the plan towards the peace conference."

He said that the majority of the PLO and PNC members supported a general peace process "based on international legitimacy."

'Terrorist Network' Targeting King's Son Arrested

NC1608184091 Paris AFP in English 1818 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Amman, Aug 16 (AFP) - Jordanian security forces have rounded up a terrorist network which planned to kidnap one of the sons of King Husayn, an authoritative source told AFP on Friday.

Members of the group, arrested in the past three weeks, said they were hoping their action would force the monarch to adopt a hardline position on the planned U.S-Soviet Middle East peace conference expected to convene in October, the source said.

The group, which is close to Muslim fundamentalist circles, was led by a team of medical doctors who were also arrested, the source added.

Among their plans was a series of raids against officials and political leaders in a bid to distabilise the country, the source said.

The group in July carried out a car-bomb attack which seriously injured a security services officer. They were responsible for bombing campaigns against Western interests in Jordan during the Gulf crisis, the source said.

Some 150 people were arrested in the operation and many of them have disclosed during their interrogation that they had received military training in Afghanistan, the source added.

The authoritative source said the network had planned to abduct one of two of King Husayn's youngest sons, who are aged 10 and 11.

The abduction was planned for when the boys were on their way to school.

King Husayn has 11 children, including five sons, from four marriages.

Plot Said To Force 'Hard Line'

JN1608190091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] In Amman, an authorized source has said that a terrorist organization in Jordan plotted the kidnapping of one of King Husayn's sons to force him to adopt a hard line on the U.S.- sponsored Middle East peace process. The source quoted confessions by a member of a terrorist network busted by the Jordanian authorities three weeks ago.

King Husayn Comments on Arrest

JN1708075291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Aug 91 pp 1,5

[Excerpts] Amman (J.T.)—His Majesty King Husayn has said that he believed that the Palestinians would succeed in forming a delegation to a Middle East peace conference planned to be held in October.

The King, in an interview with REUTER [and VISNEWS] Thursday, also said he was planning to visit Syria for talks with President Hafiz al-Asad "in the next few days." [passage omitted].

The King harshly criticised Kuwait's treatment of Jordanians of Palestinian origin, still flooding out of the emirates after losing their jobs and access to government schools.

"We used to get rightfully upset at Israel to see Palestinians treated in this way," he said.

He called for international aid to help Jordan cope with over 300,000 of its citizens forced to leave the Gulf because of anger over Jordanian and PLO stands in the Gulf crisis.

The King also urged international efforts to help halt human rights abuses against Jordanians in Gulf states.

He said he was "shocked, angry and anxious" over the plight of the Jordanians.

Kuwait is laying off over 100,000 civil servants, most of them Jordanian passport-holders.

The King said he was deeply disturbed at the continued post-war suffering of ordinary Iraqis. An estimated 150,000 Iraqis have come to Jordan since the ceasefire and several thousands are believed to have applied for visas to the West.

King Husayn said security forces had now arrested most members of a group, some trained in Afghanistan, linked to carbomb attacks on officials and private citizens in Amman.

"A certain alien group has been discovered in this country. There is a process going on now. It is nearly complete and they will be put on trial," he said.

"Their targets were essentially Jordanian targets and when I say Jordanian I mean everybody who lives here regardless of their origin."

The King said some members of the group calling itself the "Prophet Muhammad's Army" had been trained in Afghanistan. Although most of those arrested are Jordanians, he said the group "has had links and connections with the outside."

He said reports of hundreds of arrests were exaggerated. At least 70 people are known to have been detained. [passage omitted]

Islamic Deputies Criticize Authorities

JN1708131891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] Some 100 suspected members of the terrorist network, who were arrested in July, will be referred to the State Security Court after the Public Prosecution concludes its interrogation and prepares a list of charges, Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul told our radio.

The interior minister added that the aforementioned court is the one authorized to look into cases affecting state security. He explained that the court is formed in accordance with the Defense Law.

The arrest of the members of the organization—which was called by various names, including Muhammad's Army, the Jihad Brigades, and the Mujahidun for God's Cause—triggered concern and criticism on the part of some Islamic deputies, who tried more than once to visit the detainees in prison. One of the deputies went so far as to accuse authorities of using the arrests to strike at Islamic movements in the country.

Today, the interior minister asserted to us that the deputies can visit the detainees tomorrow, Sunday, in Siwaqah Prison, south of the capital, and that the Public Prosecution allowed this meeting in addition to another meeting with Red Cross officials. [passage omitted]

Al-Masri, 'Arabiyat on Visiting Detainees

JN1808091791 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Aug 91 pp 1, 16

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri met with House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd al-Latif 'Arabiyat in the Senate.

Following the meeting, Dr. 'Arabiyat said they discussed a number of parliamentary issues, cooperation between the legislative and executive branches, and issues related to the arrested members of the recently unearthed organization.

Dr. 'Arabiyat added that the prime minister asserted that the competent authorities studied the cases of most detainees and moved them to Siwaqah prison.

He added that the prime minister confirmed that deputies may visit the detainees since the initial investigations are over.

AL-DUSTUR learned that the chairman and members of the Public Liberties and Human Rights Committee in the House of Representatives will visit the detainees within the next few days.

The paper also learned that other deputies will visit the detainees in Siwaqah prison to acquaint themselves with their condition.

Information and Culture Minister Dr. Khalid al-Karaki attended the meeting.

U.S. Navy Said Harassing More Ships in Gulf

JN1808103191 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Aug 91 pp 1, 14

[Text] Amman—Sources at the shipping agencies union have told SAWT AL-SHA'B that U.S. naval forces stationed in the Gulf of Aqaba intercepted the Italian ship Jolly Robino the day before yesterday and ordered it to go to another port.

The sources said that the ship was carrying 236 containers for Jordanian merchants as well as other goods bound for other ports.

The sources attributed the interception and rerouting of the ship to the naval forces' fear that all the goods would be unloaded in the port of al-'Aqabah. These forces also demanded that ships carry goods to the port of al-'Aqabah alone. This is unfeasible for ships in economic terms. Thus, the U.S. naval forces in the Gulf of Aqaba recorded another act of harassment by preventing ships bound for the Port of al-'Aqabah from carrying goods to other ports.

The sources added that another ship belonging to the Jordan National Shipping Lines called Aydun Junior was intercepted and turned toward the Port of Suez, on the allegation that the containers were not properly arranged and could not be easily opened and searched.

Resolution Seen as Meddling in Iraqi Affairs

JN1708080391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Aug 91 p 4

[Editorial: "A Cruel Joke"]

[Text] The "permission" given by the United Nations Security Council for "monitored" sales of Iraqi oil worth $1.6 billion cannot but be an open violation of the sovereignty of Iraq, a precedent-setting move for the world powers to interfere in a nation's affairs and, above all, a cruel joke against the suffering people of Iraq.

When the American-led coalition fought Iraq out of Kuwait, all hopes were that it was the end of the crusade against Iraq, and international laws and norms will be allowed to take its course to handle the rest of the affair such as war reparations and invasion damages etc. But no, the world powers had to take it up further along and see to it that the Iraqi people are subjected to more and more suffering as if the international community—if indeed that is what the Security Council claims it represents—has a grudge against the women and children of Iraq.

To rule that a country can sell its natural resources but its government cannot be in charge of the proceeds is nothing but robbing the country of its sovereignty. Many Third World countries whose leaders are not in the good books of the world powers may please take note that a precedent has been set that the U.N. can meddle with their internal affairs under the cover of international legitimacy and violate one of the cardinal principles on which the world body was founded—respect for the sovereignty of individual countries.

Surely, the intelligence and brilliance of the world powers which fought Iraq can also produce alternative means to apply pressure on the Iraqi government without having to starve 18 million people?

We in Jordan do not have to undertake any fact-finding mission to reach the conclusion that the Iraqi people are suffering. Living proof of that is already in Amman, where thousands of Iraqis are stranded foodless and homeless. We are living with it. But for purposes of official record, repeated U.N. missions to Iraq, including those headed by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, and dozens of independent agencies have brought back one unmistakeable message: Iraqis face starvation unless immediate action is taken to ensure that they get enough food. The finding of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) was that large-scale famine is in the making in Iraq.

It beats us to envisage how the United Nations has opted to overlook the very fact that it is going to be awfully difficult for the world body to collect revenues from Iraqi oil sales and supply food and medicine to the people of Iraq while ensuring that the actual needs of the people are met and that the Iraqi government does not benefit at all. That is of course assuming that the world body does not have a grocer's mind and will not entertain the idea of opening up a supermarket. But come to think of it, the shape of things coming out of the U.N. does resemble a Shylock owning not only a high-priced supermarket but also a misprogrammed cash register.

Invitation To Attend Water Conference Received

JN1508073091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Aug 91 pp 1, 21

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Excerpt] High-level diplomatic sources said that Turkey recently sent invitations to the regional states, a number of European countries, and international organizations specializing in water issues to attend the international conference that will be held in Istanbul between 3 and 8 November under the name "Regional Water Problems."

The sources added that the Jordanian Government received the Turkish invitation to attend the regional conference, but has not yet replied to the invitation or decided whether or not to attend.

The sources said the conference organizers in Turkey extended these invitations to the countries concerned with the water issue in the region since this is a pressing issue which may prompt new wars in the region. Therefore, invitations were extended to Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Israel, and Saudi Arabia, in addition to the host country, Turkey. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Ready To Mediate for German Hostages

NC1808053991 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] AFP reported that sources close to Speaker Husayn al-Husayni advised that he is ready to mediate between the German Government and the abductors of the two German hostages in Lebanon. The agency added that a meeting yesterday between al-Husayni and German Ambassador Peter Kiewitt was also attended by some Hizballah leaders. Following the meeting, Kiewitt said: There is nothing new, but anything is possible in B'albakk.

Al-Husayni Denies Report

NC1808112291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni denied today that the German ambassador's call on him in Ba'labakk yesterday had any connection with the efforts to free the hostages. Speaker al-Husayni also denied that he expressed readiness to mediate with the German Government to help secure the release of the hostages.

Hizballah Calls on UN To Help Free Detainees

NC1708083391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Hizballah called on the United Nations to intervene to bring about the release of the Lebanese detainees held in the Israeli enemy's prisons. In a statement issued today, Hizballah urged the Lebanese Government to raise this issue at the United Nations. It also referred to the large number of Lebanese detainees who had been turned over to Israel by certain militias.

[In a Beirut-datelined report, Paris AFP in English at 0810 GMT on 17 August adds that the Hizballah appeal came in a statement issued by its deputy secretary, Shaykh Na'im Qasim. The AFP report goes on to note: "Qasim said the U.N. was not doing enough to seek the release of some 400 Lebanese and other Arab prisoners held in Israeli jails and in a compound run by its proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army, in southern Lebanon.

"'Why has the United Nations failed to act to liberate the hundreds of detainees held by our Israeli enemy?' he asked.

"He urged the Lebanese Government to launch an investigation on the fate of 'more than 2,000 detainees in the hands of the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, some of which were recently transfered to jails in occupied Palestine.'

"He named six men, describing them as 'our brothers,' and said they were handed over by the LF to Israel apparently for taking part in anti-Israeli attacks."]

More on Call for UN Action

NC1708104891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Hizballah has said that it is the duty of the United Nations to intervene to obtain the release of the Lebanese detainees being held in Israeli prisons. It called on the Lebanese Government to raise this issue.

In a statement released today, His Eminence Shaykh Na'im Qasim asked why the United Nations has not worked to obtain the release of those detained by the Zionist entity. He also called on the government to investigate the fate of more than 2,000 people detained by the Lebanese Forces, some of whom were recently transferred to Israeli prisons. He stressed that under a deal between the Lebanese Forces and Israel, Ahmad Jallul, Husayn Ramthah, Ghassan Dirani, Husayn Ahmad, and Husayn Tulays [no sixth name as heard] were taken to occupied Palestine. The International Committee of the Red Cross has thus lost contact with them.

Also Wants Pressure on Israel

NC1708085091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Station commentary: "The Israeli Obstacle"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Zionist enemy government has blatantly refused to deal positively with the idea of exchanging foreign hostages in Lebanon for the Lebanese and Palestinian detainees in its prisons, and has done so without any fear that this move would subject it to condemnation.

Hundreds, nay thousands, of Arab and Muslim Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian hostages are locked up in the enemy's prisons cells and kept under extremely harsh conditions. They are waiting for the international community to take a humanitarian interest in them, an interest which has hitherto been confined to a few Westerners. The detainees in the enemy prisons are not criminals, as they have been described by the British foreign secretary; they are either completely innocent people or mujahidin who resisted the occupation and whose actions were legitimate and acceptable by all international norms and laws. Why, then, has their case not been taken up? They are Arabs and Muslims. Is this a crime in itself? Does this mean they must be relegated to second or even third place when it comes to human rights, and thus not merit the interest or care of human rights advocates?

This is more than a tragedy of a few individuals; it is a tragedy for all mankind, made even worse by the fact that wolves are in charge and do as they please. It is a case of the law of the jungle. If this is the reality, then who will wait for signs of justice in this world? Who will wait for signs of peace and stability? It is true that a weak man cannot impose his reasoning on a strong one, but the former can reject the reasoning of the latter and express this rejection in various ways. He will not be a tyrant, a criminal, or a conspirator if he uses the weapons of the strong man to confront him.

The ball is now in the U.S. and Zionist court when it comes to the hostages. No one has the right to say that the kidnappers' demands are not just, as they demand nothing more than freedom for a group of innocent and honorable mujahidin who are being subjected to a horrible ordeal at the hands of the occupier. Who can persuade or compel Israel to release the detainees in its dungeons? Quite simply, we believe that this can be done by those who are insisting on the release of the hostages in Lebanon; that is, the Western countries collectively, and especially the United States which can impose whatever it wants on the Zionists. Therefore, the United States must show the same kind of alacrity when it comes to pressuring Israel to facilitate the entire process. Continued complications in the issue will not absolve Washington of responsibility, particularly as George Bush has said that he will not pressure Israel. The whole world today knows the obstacle and impediment to this purely humanitarian process, especially now that the kidnappers have shown their goodwill by releasing two hostages following the mediation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria.

Messages of thanks and expressions of gratitude from Western leaders are not enough. They will not hasten a solution of the problem. The only thing that can do this is creating the opportunity for all detainees, prisoners, and hostages to enjoy freedom equally. We recall those who were dragged from their homes as they slept. What crime had a religious scholar, asleep in his own home, committed? Is merely calling for resistance to Israel a terrorist action for which it can exact punishment without having to resort to any international body?

Shaykh Talib Calls for Halt to Hostage Releases

LD1608165991 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 16, IRNA—Friday prayer leader of Jibshit in southern Lebanon, Shaykh Ahmad Talib today called for halting the release of Western detainees so long as the freedom of his predecessor Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd is not secured.

Speaking to IRNA here, Shaykh Talib said, "no comparison must be made between Shaykh 'Ubayd who was abducted from his home by Zionist commandos and the Israeli soldiers who were taken captive during their armed aggression (against Lebanon)." He ruled out as "unacceptable" the Israeli conditions for releasing the kidnapped shaykh.

Shaykh Talib further called on all powers which can exert influence on the illegal Zionist regime to speed up the release of "innocent Muslim hostages" from Israeli jails and put an end to kidnapping forever. He also condemned the Zionist entity for setting "illogical conditions" for the release of hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinian hostages it is holding.

The people of Jibshit staged a protest in the village mosque, calling for the immediate release of Shaykh 'Ubayd and also urged the Islamic republic, the United Nations and other related bodies to help secure his release.

Last week, Lebanon's Revolutionary Justice Organisation (RJO) as a good-will gesture set free two westerners—Britisher John McCarthy and American Edwards Tracey Austin [name as received]—who were detained on spying charges.

Fadlallah Says Hostage Issue in 'American Camp'

NC1608154891 Paris AFP in English 1521 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Beirut, Aug 16 (AFP) - Future efforts to solve the hostage crisis must come from Washington, the spiritual guide of the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement, which has denied holding hostages but is believed to influence the kidnappers, said here Friday.

Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, however, said he believed the United States might, for electoral reasons, "block U.N. mediation" in the release of the remaining Western hostages, after what he said was a similar operation delaying the release of Americans from Iran in 1979.

Fadlallah also pinned the release of any of the 10 Westerners held in Lebanon to the setting free of Lebanese and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel.

"To be realistic we must give, but we should also take, as part of an exchange," Fadlallah said. "We cannot give continuously until there is nothing left," he added in reference to the recent release of two hostages—a Briton and an American—by Moslem fundamentalist groups in Lebanon.

The hostage-takers have demanded that Israel reciprocate and release some of its 400 Lebanese and Arab prisoners. "The ball is now in the American camp because Washington holds all the cards," Fadlallah said at the Bir al-'Abd Mosque, in the southern suburbs of Beirut, a Hizballah stronghold. "We are not using the language of extremism but for the sake of humanity. We are not terrorists, but if you don't respect our freedom why should be respect yours?" he added in a message addressed to Israel and the United States.

Israel has said it would not release any prisoners unless it had news on the fate of seven of its servicemen who have been missing or captured in Lebanon as early as 1982. Earlier the top Shiite cleric in Lebanon, Shaykh

Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din said he was pessimistic that more Western hostages would be freed soon and appealed for information on the fate of the Israeli soldiers.

Fadlallah, Imams Comment on Hostages in Sermons

NC1708072991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The crisis of the Western hostages detained in Lebanon and the detainees in Zionist and European prisons was the main focus of Friday sermons yesterday in the Islamic areas.

In this respect, Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah noted the attention now being given to the case of the Israeli soldiers and how to obtain their release, including how the question of the Lebanese and Palestinian detainees and prisoners can be exploited for their sake.

Criticizing the stands of U.S. President George Bush and other American officials toward Israel's aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinians, Fadlallah said Washington wants to dominate the region, will not pressure Israel to release the detainees, and will impede Perez de Cuellar's mediation. He noted that the ball is now in the U.S. court.

His Eminence Shaykh Na'im Qasim called for the release of the detainees in Israel's and its agents' prisons and asked why the world has remained silent about them. He expressed surprise over the absence of UN efforts to secure their release.

Shaykh Qasim also referred to those detained by the Lebanese Forces, wondering about their fate and asking why their relatives have not been allowed to see them, particularly now that the Lebanese Forces are part of the government. He added that under an earlier deal between Israel and the Lebanese Forces, the latter turned over some brothers to the Zionist enemy. Shaykh Qasim held the government responsible for what is happening and called for the release of the detainees. He added: Why does the government not include the issue of the detainees on its agenda? He said continuing the resistance was the only way to liberate all territory from the usurping enemy's desecration, adding that this enemy is seeking to legitimatize its presence through agreements and the truce.

His Eminence Shaykh Mahir Hammud said that the issue of foreign hostages in Lebanon exposes the Western countries' double standard toward human rights, which cares only about Westerners and does not recognize Muslims' rights. In his Friday sermon, he said that the Islamic Jihad's message to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar is a document for all the world's oppressed peoples, particularly the persecuted Muslims. He asked: Where is justice and fairness when the whole world looks on while our youths suffer from injustice in the prisons they were taken to after having been wrongfully seized in their homes, especially His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, whose heroism and courage fills us with pride?

His Eminence Shaykh Ahmad al-Zayn said that the United States is pursuing Islam because it is the only religion that is lying in wait for it and because it rejects injustice and slavery. He added that the West hides behind the false humanitarian values it enshrined in the UN Charter and exploited for its own national and sectarian interests, thereby spreading corruption around the world. He noted that the Western media is preoccupied with a few Zionist prisoners, while ignoring the thousands of detainees in Israeli prisons. Shaykh al-Zayn stressed that the facts outlined in the Islamic Jihad's letter make all negative aspects of the kidnappings pale in comparison to the fact that we are a nation being held hostage by the stronger United States.

Cleric Suggests Procedure for Hostage Situation

NC1808083391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has suggested that the information Israel has requested about its seven soldiers missing in Lebanon be conveyed through the UN secretary general rather than given to it directly, so that this information can be used in the process of freeing the hostages on both sides as part of a package deal. In an interview with the BBC, Shams-al-Din called for freeing all hostages and detainees, maintaining that all Lebanese have suffered as a result of the hostage crisis.

Fadlallah Sees 'Happy Ending' for Hostage Issue

NC1808120391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] 'Allamah Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that an agreement can be reached quietly on the question of the hostages. In an interview with the BBC, Fadlallah said that if all parties concerned respond positively to the quiet diplomacy of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, the problem will have a happy ending.

Foreign, Defense Ministers Visit Damascus

NC1908060591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has visited Damascus, where he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi.

Economy and Trade Minister Marwan Hammadah and Deputies Akram Shuhayyib and Ayman Shuqayr have also visited Damascus, where they met with Khaddam to discuss various issues including parliamentary elections and administrative reform.

Defense Minister Michel al-Murr, Finance Minister Dr. 'Ali al-Khalil, Interior Minister Major General Sami al-Khatib, and Minister of State 'Abdallah al-Amin have also visited Damascus, where they met with Khaddam and other Syrian officials. [passage omitted]

Islamic Resistance Attacks Israeli Patrol

NC1808102391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The Islamic resistance announced today that it had detonated an explosive charge near a mechanized patrol of the Israeli occupation forces on the road leading to the al-Ahmadiyah position overlooking western al-Biqa'. A statement issued by the resistance said that a Merkava tank was destroyed and its crew killed or wounded by the explosion, which occurred around midnight last night.

Resistance Claims Attacks on Israelis, Lahd

NC1808064891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The Zionist occupation forces continue to bring in military reinforcements to the struggling south and to escalate their brutal practices against our kinfolk there. In response, groups from the Islamic resistance detonated an explosive charge as an Israeli Mosad patrol was passing on the al-Qantarah road at 1815 yesterday, killing or wounding five patrol members. Immediately afterward, the Zionist enemy subjected Qabrikha and nearby areas to intensive bombardment.

Another explosive charge had been set off some four hours earlier on the same road by the Martyr Zuhayr Shihadah Group of the faithful resistance. A vehicle belonging to a passing unit of Lahd agents was destroyed and all those aboard were killed or wounded. Security sources in the south report that two Lahd militiamen were wounded and that the agents responded with an intensive mortar and tank bombardment of three villages.

Meanwhile, an officer from the Finnish contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon has reported that one of the contingent's positions in the south was hit by machine-gun fire. He added that there were no casualties.

Army Deploys Elements in Southern Villages

NC1608162191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] A unit of the 11th Battalion of the Lebanese Army's 1st Brigade, commanded by First Lieutenant Amin Nasir, deployed in the villages of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah before noon today. The deployment is in response to the demand from the two villages' inhabitants and in implementation of Defense Minister Michel al-Murr's orders.

Upon arriving in the villages, the unit's personnel took up positions and established fixed checkpoints to search vehicles and passengers. Patrols were staged along the villages' roads.

Soviet Envoy Arrives With Letter for al-Asad

JN1608204491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Excerpts] This evening, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Mr. Karen Brutents, adviser and personal representative for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

The meeting took up ongoing efforts to promote a fair and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question based on UN resolutions and international legitimacy. They also considered Israel's intransigence and refusal to comply with the requirements of peace.

The Soviet envoy applauded Syria's key role and constructive approach to the Middle East peace process. Brutents arrived in Damascus at noon today carrying a letter from President Gorbachev to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Meets President al-Asad

JN1708160891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] At 1700 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Mr. Karen Brutents, adviser and personal representative for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, and Vasiliy Kolotusha, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Mr. Igor Melikhov, charge d'affaires at the Soviet Embassy in Damascus.

Further on Meeting With al-Asad

JN1808051091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday received Karen Brutents, adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his personal envoy, and Vasiliy Kolotusha, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Soviet Charge d'Affaires Igor Melikhov.

His excellency the president received a message delivered by Brutents from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The message dealt with the peace process and the proposed peace conference. His excellency the president asked Brutents to relay a reply to the Soviet president. The talks dealt with the efforts under way to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Soviets said Soviet leaders appreciated Syria's positive stance on the peace process. They added that this stance has been instrumental in lending positive momentum to the process. It was agreed that the two sides will continue contacts in the future.

Al-Shar', Lebanese Counterpart Meet 18 Aug

JN1808132591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz this morning. They reviewed the situation in the region and in Lebanon, and discussed several issues of mutual concern regarding coordination and cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Israel Blamed for Obstructing Hostages' Release

JN1508065591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 15 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Ball Is in Israel's Court", TISHRIN discusses the hostages affair and Israel's refusal to budge on the issue. It says: The entire world is looking forward to closing the file on the hostages and is awaiting practical and tangible Israeli steps to facilitate a solution. But all indications—judging from the statements of Arens, Sharon, and other enemy leaders—are that Israel is trying to deflect a settlement by creating storms, leveling criticism at the world community, and launching hysterical hostile campaigns against Syria for its humanitarian efforts to release the hostages.

The paper asks: What does this Israeli position mean? And does this Israeli policy help release the hostages and save their lives? The paper answers: Finding itself under siege by growing international demands and sincere calls for releasing the Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners, Israel began to set impossible conditions to evade its responsibility toward the hostages. In order to remove doubts and suspicions regarding its refusal to release the prisoners, Israel tried to open imaginary wars and launch poisonous campaigns; it aims to cover its endeavors to hinder the exchange of prisoners and kidnapped. As maintained by the entire world, Israel is responsible for the developments of the hostages' issue. Without Israel and the fact that it is a source of terrorism in the region, there would have been no such thing as a hostages' problem.

TISHRIN concludes: Instead of complying with the UN secretary general's moves and solutions and immediately announcing its intention to free the Lebanese and Palestinian detainees in its prisons as a step to close the file on the hostages, Israel became engaged in maneuvers and procrastination reflecting lack of interest in and care for all international demands. The world emphasized that an attempt by the Israelis may facilitate a rapid resolution of the hostages' crisis. Perez de Cuellar stressed that a two-phase exchange can be worked out, with Israel releasing the Arab prisoners as the first phase. This automatically means that the ball is still in the Zionist court, because Israel is responsible for the continuation of the hostage crisis and also for the lack of a solution to it.

Commentary on Israeli Settlements, Peace

JN1708143491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: While the Jewish immigrants continue to flood into occupied Palestine, a scheme has been revealed in Israel to build 25,000 housing units in the West Bank and to intensify efforts to secure loans from the United States totaling $10 billion, to be used only for settling new immigrants from the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries.

Shamir's government is behaving as if its conditional acceptance of the U.S. proposals is the end of the road, and that in return for doing so, Israel deserves to be acquitted of all its terrorist practices against the Palestinian people and its concerted efforts to judaize the occupied Arab territories and fill them with settlements.

The truth is that the Israeli acceptance was accompanied by a series of impossible conditions whose objective is to destroy the peace conference before it even convenes, or at least to delay it, in the hope that the current U.S. Administration would get caught up in the upcoming presidential elections.

The Shamir government has shown greater stubbornness regarding Palestinian representation and the subject of Jerusalem. It thrashed the essence of the U.S. proposals against the wall. These proposals stem from Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and stipulate the exchange of land for peace.

The U.S. Administration clarified that Jerusalem and the Golan Heights are part of the occupied territories, and that what is required is a comprehensive settlement on all fronts. Nevertheless, Shamir's government continues to build settlements in the occupied territories and direct newly arrived Soviet Jews to reside there. In fact, it is doling out land for free, and providing free housing as well. Foreign reporters have revealed that the occupied Arab territories are witnessing an unparalleled Zionist settlement fever.

Everyday, a new settlement is erected here or there, and the Ministry of Housing makes Sharon participate personally in setting up prefabricated or mobile homes. The objective is crystal clear: to flood the occupied territories with settlers and place the world before a fait accompli.

The Shamir government is not content with these practices, which in practice cancel its acceptance of the U.S. proposals. On every occasion, it voices its determination to not withdraw from the occupied territories, especially Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. In fact, whole districts of occupied Arab Jerusalem are being completely evacuated of Arabs and fully judaized.

Yesterday, Friday, Israeli police kicked out the last Arab family living on al-Wad Street in Old Jerusalem. Organizations in Israel itself affirmed that the occupation authorities have stepped up operations of evicting Palestinians and banishing them from their homes. There is a noticeable increase in the number of residents and children who have been driven out of their homes.

All these indications and pieces of evidence affirm that Shamir is not serious in his acceptance of the U.S. proposals. The objective behind these proposals is to establish a just, comprehensive, and solid peace in the region. What is actually happening is the exact opposite.

If the Israeli Government succeeds in delaying the convening of the peace conference, the U.S. proposals will undoubtedly be transformed with time into mere papers filed in cabinets, just as many projects were filed away previously, such as the Rogers and Reagan projects.

Therefore, there is a great need to continue applying pressure in the direction of peace, placing the international community before its responsibilities, and working to convene the peace conference at the appointed time—during next October. The more cohesive the Arab stand is, and the more the Arabs coordinate among themselves and confront their enemies with a unified strategy, the greater control they will have over the situation and they will be able to block the way of Israeli attempts to dodge the demands of peace and weasel their way out of the U.S. proposals.

The whole world today stands alongside the just Arab demands regarding the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, imposing international legitimacy, and bringing justice to the Palestinian people.

It is very important to exploit the international stand which is applying pressure in favor of a just and comprehensive settlement, through the desired peace conference, to provide the Palestinian people with their legitimate rights and restore the occupied territories to their rightful owners.

If this opportunity now available is unique, in that it places Israel in a real dilemma with two options but no third—either peace and its demands, or confronting the international conference—then the success of the Arab stand will depend on its unity, cohesion, and resoluteness.

Palestinian Attendance at Conference Emphasized

JN1808162791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The time set during the Moscow summit, between Presidents Bush and Gorbachev, as a suitable date for the convening of the Middle East peace conference, bringing together all parties to the Arab-Zionist conflict under appropriate international auspices, continues to get closer. Only a short period of time separates us from October, and the large international powers hope to use this time to overcome several obstacles which continue to threaten to blow up the conference at its roots, even before it starts, and to obstruct all sincere efforts which seek a just and comprehensive solution. All of this after great strides have been made along the path of narrowing differences and defining the principles upon which bridges to peace can be established.

Last month's positive Syrian response to President Bush's letter opened all doors for these efforts to continue and placed the region on the road to finding a just and comprehensive solution. However, the prevaricating Israeli position is still blocking all outlets and aborting any chance for sitting at the conference table and implementing the international legitimacy resolutions and the will of the international community.

Israel is today preoccupying the world with the issue of Palestinian representation and its details after first raising the issue of a unilateral solution, direct negotiations, international auspices, and UN participation. It rejects any representation of Palestine or the Palestinians at the peace conference, claiming the right to name the Palestinian delegates and raising the problem of the representation of East Jerusalem Palestinians, in addition to other allegations and complexities whose real objectives and dimensions have become known to the entire world.

Perhaps the world is now sharing with us our surprise at the Israeli position, that calls for a peace conference in which Palestine and the Palestinians are absent at a time when we all know that the core of the Middle East problem is the Palestinian question, and that the roots of the conflict have been revolving around Palestine for more than 43 years. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 deal with Palestinian territory occupied by Israel in 1967, calling for its withdrawal. How then, in the absence of Palestine and the Palestinians, can a peace conference be convened on the basis of these two resolutions? Plus, how can the Palestinian Arab people restore this territory with representatives who are named and instructed by Israel concerning their role and the limits of their participation in the peace conference? Such an Israeli position is no more than an underestimation of the entire international community, the UN resolutions, and the Arab mentality. It is eventually aimed at canceling the available chance to reach a just and comprehensive solution by way of a peace conference.

It is illogical to convene the peace conference to discuss the Arab-Zionist conflict and, at its core, the Palestine question, while the real representatives of the Palestinian Arab people remain outside. Here lies the last complexity created by Israel to thwart international efforts, but it is not the final one Tel Aviv is hiding. Hence, the international efforts, represented by Soviet, U.S., and European diplomacy, seem to be in a race with time to rescue the opportunity the world has agreed to seize to rid the Middle East of a longstanding conflict that brought to the region vast destruction, subversion, and miserable woes over the past four decades.

No Ties to Iraq Possible Under Present Regime

JN1708061991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 17 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN today comments on the Iraqi people's tragedy, which has not ended with the end of the Gulf war and the return of Kuwait to its people. The paper says that the Iraqi people continue to bear the mistakes of the individualistic, fascist regime and of its criminal practices. TISHRIN says: The UN Security Council yesterday adopted three new resolutions, some of which are in the interest of the Iraqi people and aim to ease their human suffering, and some of which are aimed against the existing regime.

These and previous resolutions, TISHRIN notes, prove that the Iraqi regime lost credibility in the Arab world and internationally. The paper says: There is no way that bridges can be repaired with the Arabs and the world through the present regime, which has destroyed all bridges and seriously harmed the Iraqi people and their civilized Arab traditions.

The paper urges the Iraqi people to control their affairs, impose their will, and develop a national popular rule because this will remove every obstacle to Iraq's return to the Arab family and international community.

Concluding the editorial, TISHRIN says: The future of Iraq today arouses the concern of every sincere Arab citizen; this future remains vague and surrounded by definite dangers unless the Iraqi people wrench their freedom and address the roots of the horrendous tragedy that the Baghdad rulers have caused with their unjust wars, and that they continue to cause with their policies, which violate the most basic Arab principles.

Afghanistan

Report on Najibullah Telephone Interview

LD1908064491 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 18, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) at the request of the eastern service of the radio BBC, made a direct telephonic interview with Nabi Misdaq, correspondent of that radio today.

President Najibullah during the interview replied to the questions raised by the journalist in relation to the military situation in Aghanistan, the realisation of the national reconciliation policy and possibilities of starting intra-Afghan negotiations.

50 Killed in Airstrikes on Mas'ud Stronghold

BK1808082691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0809 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 18 (AFP)—Fifty people died and more than 100 were wounded in Afghan Government air strikes against the city of Taloqan, the stronghold of rebel leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, a resistance spokesman said here Sunday.

The victims did not include Mas'ud, nicknamed "the Lion of Panjshir," said Mohammed Ayoub, military committee head of the Jamiat-e-Eslami, the party with which the legendary resistance chief is affiliated.

"Mas'ud was in the region, but not in the city. He was not hit," Ayoub said.

The bombing which began Friday has left numerous civilians dead or wounded, he said.

Mas'ud took Taloqan, capital of the province of Takhar, in 1988 when Soviet troops began their withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The air attacks are apparently "reprisals" in response to the mojahedin's recent capture of several towns and districts in Takhar and the Province of Badakhshan, Ayoub said.

In mid-May, Mas'ud, 38, seized Khajaghar, the second biggest city in Takhar, and in late July seized Zebak and Ishkashem, near the Soviet border.

Mas'ud's northern command said last week it had had direct contact with Soviet frontier guards and had agreed not to infiltrate any guerrillas into the Moslem-populated bordering Soviet republic of Tajikistan.

Further on Casualities Figure

BK1908090991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0841 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 19 (AFP)—Three days of Kabul government air raids on territory held by mojahedin commander Ahmed Shah Mas'ud have left at least 100 people dead and 300 wounded, mostly civilians, the rebels said.

All territory Massood had seized in recent weeks near the Soviet republic of Tajikistan has been bombed in an "intensive, indiscriminate" manner since Friday by Soviet-made Sukhoi and MIG aircraft, the rebel commander said in a radio message whose text was received here Monday.

The message described the casualty toll, which it said included mainly civilians, as preliminary and reported that many homes were destroyed.

In the message, relayed by Massood's brother, Ahmed Zia, to Pakistan, the mojahedin commander said the bombing was continuing and that one-tonne fragmentation bombs were used on civilians.

The rebel commander made an "urgent appeal" for donation of blood, serum and surgical equipment to cope with the casualties.

On Sunday, the rebels had said 50 had been killed and 100 wounded in air raids, mentioning only that Taloqan, Mas'ud's stronghold had been hit but adding that he was not among the dead.

Mas'ud, 38, took Taloqan, capital of Takhar province, in 1988 when Soviet troops began their withdrawal from Afghanistan. An ethnic Tajik, Mas'ud heads the mojahedin's Supervisory Council for the North.

He said a Sukhoi was shot down in the Jurm district of Badakhshan province and that rebels took the pilot prisoner.

The pilot, identified as Brigadier Abdul Mateen, reportedly said Afghan government warplanes had flown more than 300 sorties since Friday from the air base in Bagram, near Kabul.

"The indiscriminate bombardments of the cities and towns by the Kabul regime show their callous attitude towards the civilians," Mas'ud's message said.

"Since the regime lost vast areas, including a dozen cities and towns in the north and northeast, it has directed its operation towards aerial bombing of the population," it added.

"The aim is to undermine the confidence of the people in the supervisory council and its administration, as well as an act of revenge and an attempt to slow down the advancement of the mojahedin towards the provincial capitals in the north and northeast of the country," Mas'ud said.

Massood, nicknamed the "Lion of Panshir," stepped up operations against the government of President Najibullah in mid-May, seizing several towns along the border with Tajikistan.

The supervisory council for the north said last week it had had direct contact with Soviet frontier guards and had agreed not to infiltrate any guerrillas into Muslim-populated Tajikistan.

Mojahedin Kill 100 Soldiers in Meydan

BK1808074691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce fighting between mojahedin and Kabul regime troops in Vardak Province, Khvord Kabul, and in others parts of the country. Reports say that mojahedin have killed 100 Kabul regime militiamen in fighting in Meydan city and have captured six posts. They also destroyed 18 Kabul regime posts in Khvord Subdistrict of Kabul.

According to reports, mojahedin killed three Kabul regime militiamen and injured 13 in an another operation in Golran of Herat Province. Two hundred militiamen along with their families surrendered to mojahedin in this operation.

Meanwhile, mojahedin have launched 16 rockets on Kabul, killing one person and injuring many others. The Kabul regime Interior Ministry has admitted that most of the rockets were launched near the city airport.

Mojahedin Offensive; Talks With Soviets Viewed

BK1408114991 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 91 p 11

[Text] Peshawar, Aug. 13—Afghan Mojahedin launched offensive over the regime's posts in Qala-i-Jamal area of Zendeh Jan district, Herat Province, on Aug 9. As a result, six officers and soldiers were killed, while injured several others and burnt one tank.

It was reported by Commander General Ismail Khan through a wireless message of MIDIA's [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] office in Quetta.

According to another reports, mojahedin attacked the regime's positions in Qala-i-Regi area of the said district on the same date, causing five militiamen and soldiers to death, while set ablazed one tank. All those onboard were also killed in the attack.

The report added that mojahedin exploded a regime's tank when their planted mine went off in Ganbadi area of Angeel district of the said province. All those on board were killed including an officer.

According to another report MIDIA learnt, mojahedin under commander Said Mazamuddin attacked a regime's military vehicle in Qandahar city on Aug 7. As a result five Khad members were killed, while destroyed the vehicle.

Commander Eng. Mamood of Jalalabad termed the news which was published in a section of the press baseless and false as nine mojahedin commanders were given the poisoned food. This sort of news publication is launched by the enemies of the mojahedin to create problems among the mojahedin forces.

While answering with MIDIA's reporter, he said that this sort of news neither can prevent mojahedin to intensify operations over the puppet regime forces nor raise the morale of the defeated Communists.

He added that mojahedin were united in Jalalabad and he strongly refuted that mojahedin had differences among them.

He said that mojahedin local shuras [assemblies] of Sorkh Rud, Samar Khel, Shewa and Khugianay areas of Nangarhar are meeting regarding intensifying operations over the regime's forces.

MIDIA's reporters regarding the nine alleged dead bodies informed that it was baseless. They said that there were no such incident that nine mojahedin commanders were martyred due to eating poisoned food.

[Words indistinct] of at least over three Mojahedin groups inside Afghanistan, would be swapped with some political and military prisoners of the Mojahedin held by Kabul regime authorities.

Hezb-e Eslami (Hekmatyar), Jamiat-e Eslami (Prof. Rabbani) and NIFA [National Islamic Front of Afghanistan] of Pir Ahmad Gaylani, are reported to be holding some Russian POWs.

Most of these soldiers, who have embraced Islam, were captured during different combat actions with Red Army forces throughout.

Afghanistan, while some of those Russians simply deserted to the Afghan resistance out of sheer frustration or harsh treatment at the hands of their superiors. [sentence as published]

Four senior officials of the Mojahedin told Al-Bunyan News Service (ANS), Russian soldiers could be freed, if the Russian side agree to five conditions: stop military backing to Kabul regime, pay war reparations, allow the Afghans to freely exercise their right of self-determination, help in reconstruction Afghanistan and finally provide an authentic file-wise list of those Afghan political prisoners who went missing between Oct 1978 and Sept 1979.

"These officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, told ANS that there were many Russian prisoners who refused to be sent back to the Soviet Union and as such it would be a negation of the Afghan hospitality to hand them over to the Soviet authorities against their will".

They said this aspect of the POWs release will have to be settled first.

A delegation consisted of three Russian frontier officers has held talks with a mojahedin's delegation in Eshkashem district of Badakhshan Province, bordering USSR.

MIDIA learnt through the mojahedin commanders council on the basis of the Supervisory Council's radio message from the northern provinces that the talks were on the bilateral frontier issues.

This was the first official meeting between mojahedin and Russians regarding the peace planing of the borders after the mojahedin's glorious victories in the northern parts of the country.

The meeting discussed the following points:

Both sides, mojahedin and Russians, should not interfere each other territories, Russians asked the mojahedin to send back all the Russians nationality holders who defected to Afghanistan. But, from the mojahedin's side their proposal was suspended to the next high officials meeting; mojahedin's proposal returning all the Afghan communists along with their arms, who had escaped to USSR during fighting in Eshkashem. It was also postponed to the next meeting; Russians preferred direct contacts with mojahedin than talking on the telephone after frontier problems were erupted; the frontier commissionerate office of Russia which was in Afghanistan territory sank into its soil after the mojahedin and Russians delegation reached the agreement during the meeting and all the above points were regarding the bilateral issues of the border and no political and military matter was discussed in the talks.

Kidnapped Red Cross Worker Freed

LD1808101991 Bern Swiss Radio International in English 1000 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The all-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] says an aid worker kidnapped nearly two weeks ago in Afghanistan has been freed. An ICRC spokesman in Geneva said Alexandre Ghelew was handed over at a Red Cross point 40 km north of the Afghan capital Kabul. He said the delegate was in good health and would be taken to Kabul before beginning his flight home to Switzerland.

The spokesman said Muslim guerrilla leaders in the region have helped in the negotiations with the group that kidnapped Mr. Ghelew. The ICRC said last week that it knew the identity of the group holding Mr. Ghelew, but declined to reveal its name in case negotiations for his release were further complicated.

Protests Over Arrest of Journalist Test Government

BK1808132191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0924 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug 18 (AFP)—The arrest and defence of outspoken Kabul newspaper editor Ghulam Sakhi Ghairat appear to be turning into a litmus test of President Najibullah's announced policy of political pluralism.

Ghairat was arrested about 10 days ago, and the latest edition of his nine-month-old fortnightly newspaper Azadi (Freedom) seized after he reportedly tried to run an article carrying the speech of a hardline mojahedin leader.

In past years the matter might have rested there, and Ghairat disappeared into the oblivion of Pule Charkhi prison, sometimes home to hundreds of political prisoners, party dissidents and mojahedin alike.

But the editor's colleagues, armed with the government's own statements that it is committed political pluralism, have gone to the top to appeal for his immediate release.

Rahnaward Zaryab, short story writer and chairman of the Afghan Writers' Association, said this weekend that he had taken the case directly to Najibullah, who in a 40-minute interview assured him that Ghairat would soon be released.

Zaryab said the president had cited as the reason for the arrest the fact that the Constitution opposed the propagation of war as a means to solve political problems which the offending article reportedly advocated.

But, the writer argued to foreign journalists here, this seemed thin grounds for arrest "when many times the leadership and the president have announced that the opposition (the mojahedin) leaders can come here, register, set up offices in Kabul and have their own publications."

Najibullah has repeatedly put forward the invitation as a proposed step towards forming a broad-based government to help extricate Afghanistan from 13 years of war.

If this is the case, Zaryab argued, then why cannot a speech by one of the same leaders, who has been invited, be published by the non-government press here?

He said the government had radio, television and its own publications, and the people of Kabul and other government-held areas in Afghanistan were entitled to know what Afghans on all sides were saying.

"Only in this way can people make up their minds," he said in apparent reference to a United Nations blueprint put forward in May in a bid to bring Afghanistan's warring factions to the negotiating table and eventual elections.

Zaryab, who was elected last march to the chairmanship of the 600-member Writers' Association, winning over a candidate of Najibullah's Watan (Homeland) Party in a secret ballot, said that so far efforts to secure Ghairat's freedom had been without fanfare or confrontation.

The Afghan Journalists' Union also went quietly to the prime minister to seek his help, he said.

But he said his group was prepared to take a stronger approach if Ghairat was not freed soon. The next course of action under consideration, he said, was an open letter to the leadership and to international organisations marshalling the arguments against Ghairat's continued detention.

However, he said that before that course, if necessary, was undertaken much remained to be done.

First, the exact charges levelled against Ghairat should be revealed, copies of the offending article, which he said he himself had not seen, be obtained, read, and discussed with lawyers "so that we can act accordingly."

He did not specify what he thought would be a reasonable time for the release of Ghairat who, colleagues who have been able to visit him said, was being well treated in detention.

They said he was being held in the city, not in a jail, and that he had access to television and radio, over which he can ironically hear foreign news organisations broadcasting statements from Gulboddin Hekmatyar, the mojahedin hardliner whose speech he reportedly attempted to publish.

Some Kabul-based diplomats watching the case pointed out that Azadi had become increasingly outspoken in recent months, and had previously run an interview with another mojahedin leader without inviting arrest.

Zaryab said that to his knowledge Ghairat had not been warned after the publication of that interview with Ahmad Shah Masood, a powerful mojahedin commander based in Afghanistan's north.

Nor, he said, did there appear to be any pressure on him after he ran an open letter written by a political dissident from inside Pule Charkhi prison, or a letter by former premier Sultan Ali Keshtmand criticising the ruling party.

Some of the diplomats said that in their view hardliners within the Watan Party saw Azadi, despite its tiny circulation of 2,000, as "going too far too fast" with glasnost.

Yet others said they saw complex party and regional factionalism at work behind the arrest, with one civil servant here pointing to the low circulation indicating that people were wary of the paper's political motives.

New Communications Ministry Building Opens

LD1508204491 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The press department of the Prime Ministry reported that esteemed Fazi Haq Khaleqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, this morning opened a multistory building housing the Ministry of Communications. [passage omitted]

Khaleqyar, praying for the return of nationwide peace and prosperity of the people of Afghanistan, and in honor of the 72nd anniversary of independence of the country, opened the multistory building of the Ministry of Communications. During the opening ceremony at the building, esteemed Khaleqyar briefly said that with the opening of the building of the Ministry of Communications on the occasion of marking the country's independence, it is an auspicious day for Afghans. He said it is also a matter of honor that the engineering and the complex design of the project were drafted, planned and carried out by the talented minds and hands of Afghans. This shows that Afghans have the talent and competence to bring to fruition greater projects and take successful part in the reconstruction of their wartorn country.

The esteemed prime minister thanked all those who took part in various parts of the engineering, construction, planning and designing of the project and rewarded a number of them with badges and other incentives. [passage omitted]

The plan and design of the building were carried out by the Projects Institute of Kabul. It occupies 12,000 square meters, with a volume of 130,000 cubic meters. Its foundation stone was laid in Saratan 1356 [July 1987]. Spending on the project totalled 1,240,263,511 Afghani. The building was built in 18 stories. It will be used for post, telecommunication, radio-television and administration. In the future it will be used for rendering national and international telephone, telex, telegraph, telephoto services, as well as the dispatch of photos, radio and television programs through outerspace facilities.

India

Minister: Changes in USSR Not To Affect Ties

BK1908060291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0553 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 19 (AFP)—India, which recently renewed a 20-year friendship and cooperation treaty with the Soviet Union, said Monday the political changes in Moscow would not affect Indo-Soviet ties.

It said however New Delhi was "closely watching" the situation in Moscow following the replacement of President Mikhail Gorbachev by Vice-President Gennadiy Yanayev.

"We are in touch with Moscow and we are watching the situation very closely.... We still do not have a clear picture," Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro said two hours after the announcement.

"But it goes without saying that our (Indo-Soviet) relations are not dependent on any individual and the changes in Moscow will not affect them," Faleiro told AFP [AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE].

"It is not people who are paramount, but interests between two nations which will remain permanent," the foreign minister said reacting to the removal of Gorbachev on health grounds and the declaration of a six-month period of emergency in the Soviet Union.

India's relations with the Soviet Union, which exports to the country on a rupee-trade basis and is its main arms suppliers, grew after the 1988 visit of Gorbachev to New Delhi.

Experts in Bombay said the political changes in the Kremlin would not affect the domestic share market because India's imports from the Soviet Union were insulated due to the rupee-trade system.

Reportage on Renewal of USSR Friendship Treaty

Commentary Hails Renewed Pact

BK1408112191 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Commentary by Kuldip Singh Arora, UNI correspondent: "Renewal of Indo-Soviet Treaty"]

[Text] The renewal of Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace and Friendship for a period of another 20 years has been hailed by the people and political leadership of both the countries. The treaty, which was signed in 1971, expired on 9 August and the Soviet foreign minister, Mr. Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, is scheduled to visit India later this year to sign a protocol for the extension. Though the treaty was signed when cold war and ideological confrontation characterized the international atmosphere, yet it laid a new foundation for further friendly relations. The treaty is a right step in the direction to move toward a nuclear-free zone as vestiges of a horrifying past still remain.

The contents of the treaty are very much relevant today as they were in the year 1971 when the treaty was signed, as they are not directed against any third country. The contents of the treaty signify consultation of each other in case of a threat from the third country. The treaty does not envisage cooperation for attacking third country in the event of war. It only talks of defense which is a significant point.

There is a section of people that sees the treaty as a mere symbol after the formal end of the cold war and momentous changes within the Soviet Union. They forget the critical political role the treaty has played when it was signed in 1971 in preventing externalization of the Indo-Pakistan conflict and the birth of Bangladesh. It was a strategic deterrent keeping the U.S. from thinking of intervention in any form. In the immediate years, the weight of the treaty molded government's strategic planning visible in the modernization of the defense forces based on Soviet hardware, the cooperation reaching a peak with the loan to India of a nuclear training submarine. The treaty also formed the background of enhanced economic cooperation between the two countries in the 1970's and the 1980's with ambitious long-term thinking extending to 2000 AD.

The cold war has no doubt eased but has not ended. The Warsaw Pact has been dissolved, while NATO still remains intact. It is an illusion to believe that the cold war has ended. Moreover, the significance of the treaty goes much beyond the cold war horizons. It looks for peace and works as a deterrent to anything that threatens peace.

The economic changes in the two countries need not mean a reduction of bilateral commerce. India still has to utilize about rupees 150,000 million in Soviet credit. The Soviet Union which accounts for 16 to 18 percent of India's total exports still remains a viable market though Indian exporters now face tough competition. The two countries will still need to cooperate closely on issues of security in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Gorbachev and the Russian Federation president, Boris Yeltsin, have recently stressed the importance they place on India's role in the emerging Asian and global scenario. In 1971, for the first time, India was recognized by the Soviet Union as a great Asian power. Professor G.G. (Kotovskiy) has said that the treaty's ideological significance and the context in which it was signed could not be overlooked even now in view of the changing world order. The realignment of forces and the emergence of unified Germany and the growing power of Japan makes the relevance of the Indo-Soviet treaty still more important. The Soviet ambassador to India, Mr. Isakov, welcoming the extension of the treaty for another

20 years has noted that it would do wonders for the next generations of India and the Soviet Union. He expressed that the treaty has served the two countries well because of their similar views on most of the international issues.

The union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has described the treaty as a model of cooperation among the nations. The treaty, which was renewed for 20 years, is a living and dynamic document as it is based on universally accepted principles and has become the bedrock of Indo-Soviet relations after playing a stellar role in the attainment of international peace, security, and disarmament.

In the words of Mikhail Gorbachev, the extension would further cement the Indo-Soviet relations. It is a forward-looking document capable of meeting the challenges of the fast-changing world. It will fulfill another important purpose of countervailing linkage in the face of the Pakistan-U.S.-China axis in the present context, particularly when Moscow is faced with numerous difficulties of realigning of its own republics and the Western world giving air to separatism to the Baltic republics. Similarly, the anxiety is being caused to India by Pakistan through its proxy war, with China still maintaining its claim on a chunk of Indian territory. The present situations are a pointer that the existing cooperation between two countries would deepen with new areas of advantageous linkups opening up.

Editorial Views Treaty

BK1608155391 Delhi PATRIOT in English
10 Aug 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Why India-USSR Treaty"]

[Text] By renewing the Indo-USSR friendship treaty for another 20 years, India and the Soviets have made a profound political statement. By this they have affirmed that the two have common long-term interests. This is how this decision should be seen. It is an act of far-sightedness insofar as the Kremlin is concerned, given the current flux in Soviet foreign policy. President Mikhail Gorbachev's foreign policy is subject to many influences. There are those who, wishing to repudiate past mistakes and wrongs, are inclined to disavow even that which should be cherished. After prolonged isolation from the rest of Europe and North America, towards which the European republics of the USSR are naturally drawn by cultural affinities, race and the West's material achievements, the Russians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians may resent the somewhat one-sided relationships the USSR forged with several Third World countries. There is an opinion, often articulated in the years of glasnost, that "sacrifices" were being extracted from the USSR for ideological reasons to sustain economies and regimes in several Third World countries which had little or nothing to offer in return to the Soviets. Like all reactive emotional responses evoked when a society undergoes profound changes, this particular Soviet opinion contains only a half-truth. There is no need here to answer Russian critics of the USSR's relationships with the developing countries, the less so because the benefits of India-Soviet relations never were one-sided; nor would they be in the future. India was and is a firm friend of the USSR, the only large Third World nation to have strong bonds with the Soviets without subscribing to Soviet ideological norms or accepting Soviet political institutions. Often the two countries' responses to international happenings, especially those concerning decolonisation and campaign against racialism, were congruent. India was the sponsor of the global movement of the nonaligned, of the former colonies which cherished their independence. The USSR led one of the two most powerful military blocs and the reach of its power was global. Indians are a grateful people. They recall with gratitude the economic and technological help the Soviets offered India at a time when the leading Western nations almost disdainfully rejected India's plans for economic modernisation and industrialisation. India amply repaid in goodwill, goods and services for what she got from the Soviets in the early years of industrialisation, and later for petroleum products, among other mineral imports. The rupee trade was useful to the Soviets as it was to India. When the overvalued rouble is floated in the external market to find its current equilibrium, Indian trade doubtless would be able to adjust to the new situation with little difficulty. Indo-Soviet ties have rested on the interests of both sides, and that is why these cannot be equated with the more one-sided relationships the Soviets have had with some of the Third World and East European countries.

If, in spite of the titanic changes in the USSR and the Soviet world-view, both countries have agreed to extend the friendship treaty for another 20 years, it is because the compact remains mutually beneficial even in the altered world. The cold war is dead. Misgivings about the friendship treaty being misconstrued as an understated alignment need never arise. The USSR and the USA have convergent interest in defusing what the great powers describe as regional conflicts, that is, conflicts between less powerful nations. Aside from some differences on the modalities to be employed—whether or not a central peace-keeping body should intervene in the affairs of less powerful sovereign nations to remove casus belli that might cause regional conflicts—the USSR and America have currently a common interest in stabilising the present equilibrium in the international community. What would happen a decade or two later cannot be foretold. In Mr Gorbachev's world-view, India, China, Japan and the Soviets occupy an important position. His estimate rests on a geographic and demographic reality which will remain valid, no matter how the political configurations may alter in the USSR in the immediate period ahead. Destabilising the Central Asian republics of the USSR is the current "big game" of Pakistan's ruling elite which would think nothing of misusing religion and ethnicity for this purpose. Religious bigotry can be stoked in Central Asia—to the detriment of stability of the entire region. India cannot have any sympathy for such machinations. In the Indo-Soviet friendship treaty, the provision for consultation in the vent of a threat to the security of either country arising from a third country is hardly a defensive arrangement. The military significance attached to the friendship treaties the USSR concluded with certain countries was demolished when China invaded Vietnam. Much Soviet help came to Vietnam but little military activities were allowed on the long Sino-Soviet borders to distract the Chinese. Besides, the friendship treaties the Soviets have concluded with some countries have significantly varied provisions. In the Iraqi-USSR friendship treaty of April 1971 (which ante-dated the agreement with India by four months), the following stipulation occurred: "In the interest of the security of both countries the High Contracting Parties will continue to develop cooperation in the strengthening of their defence capabilities" (Article 9). No such provision was made in the cooperation agreement with India. The Afghanistan-USSR Treaty of December 5, 1978 had more explicit references to cooperation in the military area between the two. Illustratively, it wanted both sides to consult one another about "all issues" which might affect the security, independence and territorial integrity of either country. Under Article 4 they agreed that they would develop military cooperation. There are no references to these obligations in the India-USSR Treaty. Thus though security in its broad connotation will remain a shared concern of India and the USSR, what has prompted the renewal of the friendship concord is the realisation that these two countries will remain important to each other in the Eurasian landmass, regardless of what experiments they may undergo today in their economies and societal reforms. It is a benign friendship, without military implications.

Uzbek Republic President Arrives for 3-Day Visit

BK1708084291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The president of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, Mr. Islam A. Karimov, arrived in New Delhi today on a three-day official visit. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki.

Talking to AIR [All India Radio] correspondent at the airport, Mr. Karimov said his first visit to India is an embodiment of his people's will to establish closer ties with India. During his stay in the capital, Mr. Karimov accompanied by a high level delegation will meet the president, the vice president, the prime minister, and the external affairs minister.

Attends Signing Ceremony for 2 Pacts

BK1708125091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] India and the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic have signed two agreements on bilateral cooperation. The first agreement relating to economic, commerce, scientific and technical cooperation was signed by the deputy prime minister of Uzbekistan, Mr. Khamidov, and the secretary in the Commerce Ministry, Mr. Mantek Singh Ahluwalia. The second agreement relating to cooperation in the field of culture was signed by the Uzbek minister of culture, Mr. (Gayibov), and the secretary in the department of culture, Mr. Bhaskar Ghosh. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao; the Uzbek president, Mr. Karimov; and the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki; were present. Earlier, the prime minister called on the visiting dignitary. Mr. Rao recalled the ancient cultural and trade links between India and Uzbekistan. He expressed the hope that these links will be strengthened in the new conditions that are emerging in the Soviet Union and India.

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Calls on President Venkataraman

BK1708145691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The president of the Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Islam A. Karimov, called on the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house] in New Delhi today. The Uzbek leader sought New Delhi's cooperation in the economic field, particularly in consumer goods, small-scale sector and self-employment. Mr. Venkataraman said that India always had special relationship with the USSR and the present visit of the Uzbek president will further strengthen these relations.

Joint Statement on Cooperation

BK1808161691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] India and the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan have expressed the desire to develop and diversify their historical relations of friendship and cooperation. In a joint press statement issued in New Delhi today, the two sides said the agreements in the field of economics and culture signed yesterday will give a fresh impetus to the mutually-beneficial ties. Speaking to newsmen, the visiting president of the Uzbek Republic, Mr. Islam Karimov, said strengthening of the economic and cultural ties is the first step toward developing direct relations with India. This is within the framework of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of 1971 and also the new union treaty which Uzbekistan is to sign with Moscow on Tuesday [20 August]. Answering questions, he favored strong Soviet Republics and a strong center and said Uzbekistan has its future within the Soviet Union. He said the new union treaty the Republic is to sign on Tuesday is the result of the farsightedness and wisdom of Mr. Gorbachev to keep a balance between the two extremes—the left and the right. He ruled out any possibility of the Uzbek Republic signing any political treaty with any other country.

President Karimov, who had earlier met the prime minister and the ministers of finance and external affairs, today held discussions with the representatives of business and industry.

More Than 60 Feared Killed in Plane Crash

BK1608145691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Sixty-nine people, including six members of the crew, are feared killed in an air crash near Imphal airport this afternoon. The wreckage of the ill-fated plane has been spotted in a jungle near the Tanjing Hills about 50 km from Imphal. The rescue party has not yet been able to reach the site of the accident because of inclement weather and difficult terrain.

Among others, the former deputy chief minister of Manipur, Mr. I. Tompok Singh; and a sitting MLA [member of lesiglative assembly], Mr. K. Bira Singh, were on the plane. Early reports say the Indian Airlines Boeing 737 on a flight from Calcutta to Dimapur had crashed within an hour of its takeoff. The IC-257 flight took off from Calcutta airport at around 1145 [0615 GMT] and reportedly lost contact with ground control at about 1245. An IAF [Indian Air Force] helicopter has been put into service to locate the wreckage. Indian Airlines has set up control rooms at Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, and Dimapur, and Imphal. [passage omitted]

Commerce Minister Slightly Injured in Attack

BK1608160191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] The commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, and two other Congress-I MPs—Mr. L. Adaikalraj and Mr. P.N. Sunder—received minor injuries today when they were attacked by AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] supporters near Tiruchirappalli this afternoon. Reports say as soon as the convoy of the minister came out of the airport, the AIADMK supporters started pelting stones and acid-filled eggshells at them. Earlier, some AIADMK workers held a black flag demonstration at the entrance of the airport, protesting against Mr. Chidambaram's stand on the Cauvery water dispute issue.

Tamil Nadu Minister Denies Attack

BK1708042891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Miss Jayalalitha, has described the reports of the attack on the union minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, by the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] workers as untrue. In a statement issued in Madras, she said about 400 persons showed black flag to the minister outside Tiruchirapalli Airport and there were only a few AIADMK members in the crowd. She said some antisocial elements took advantage of the situation and pelted stones at the minister's car.

CPI-M Unit Criticizes Attack Denial

BK1708092091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] unit of Tamil Nadu has described the denial by the chief minister, Ms. Jayalalitha, regarding AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] involvement in yesterday's attack on union commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, at Tiruchirapalli as an attempt to divert the attention of the people. In a statement in Madras today, the party said the recent utterances by the chief minister had instigated the AIADMK party workers to indulge in violence against Mr. Chidambaram. It also criticized the Madras TV for not giving proper coverage about the incident in its Tamil bulletin.

BJP Workers Attack on Minister's Residence

Congress Protests

BK1408111491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] The Lok Sabha was adjourned twice today as the proceedings were stalled by the Congress-I members over the reported attack on the civil aviation minister, Mr. Madhavrao Scindia, by BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] workers at his residence in New Delhi this morning. As soon as the Lok Sabha assembled at 1100, the agitated Congress-I members stormed into the well of the house expressing their grave concern over the attack on the minister. They alleged that more than 150 unruly BJP workers raided the residence of Mr. Scindia and damaged several vehicles. They said the personal security officer of the minister was injured seriously in the incident. The Congress-I members demanded an apology from the BJP leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, for the behavior of his party workers. They asked the speaker to summon the home minister for making a statement on the incident. The National Front and left front members, while expressing indignation over the incident, wanted the government to react immediately and ask for a probe by a house committee. As the situation became unmanageable, the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, adjourned the house till 1200. He invited the floor leaders to his chamber for urgent consultations. When the house reassembled, the Congress-I members persisted with their demands. Mr. Sharad Dighe, who was in the chair, abruptly adjourned the house to meet again at 1400.

Mr. Madhavrao Scindia has appealed to the Congress-I members to exercise restraint and not to precipitate the situation over the incident at his residence in the morning. Talking to AIR correspondent, he said certain communal and divisive forces are out to destroy the secular fabric of the nation. He said the fight against these forces should continue and there is no question of his being cowed down by violent tactics.

The BJP leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, said that the home minister has been asked to find out the facts about the incident and there is no meaning in disturbing the proceedings in the Lok Sabha till the report is available. Talking to AIR correspondent, he said according to information available to him, some BJP workers were also injured in the police tear gas before Mr. Scindia's house. He said there should be a code among political parties and how to conduct demonstrations. However, he said he does not approve of any violence even if his party members indulge in such attacks.

The BJP leader, Mr. M.L. Khurana, demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident at Mr. Scindia's residence. Talking to newsmen, he claimed that the demonstration by the Delhi youth wing of the BJP was peaceful and did not indulge any attack as alleged by the Congress-I. He said the BJP workers were lathi [baton] charged and tear gassed and four of them were arrested.

Interior Minister on Attack

BK1408133091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Four persons were arrested and a case registered in connection with the demonstration at the residence of the civil aviation minister, Mr. Madhavrao Scindia, in New Delhi this morning. In a statement in the Lok Sabha, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said a senior officer will inquire into the incident, if necessary. Giving details, Mr. Chavan said about 250 youth wing workers of the BJP gathered at the residence of the minister at about 0915 in the morning and pushed forward in an attempt to enter the house, raising pro [as heard] and anti-Scindia slogans. They pelted stones at the police and used bamboo sticks to assault them. Eight policemen, including one ACP [assistant commissioner of police] and one SHO [station house officer] were injured in the incident. The personal security officer of Mr. Scindia and one visitor, who was inside the compound, also sustained injuries in the stone throwing. Mr. Chavan said police resorted to a mild cane charge and burst tear gas to disperse the crowd. One bus and one car used by the demonstrators have been seized. The issue rocked the proceedings of the Lok Sabha since it assembled this morning and led to three adjournments. The home minister also assured the house that he will make a statement on the attacks on the residence of the Janata Dal member, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, in last May. The home minister's statement came following a persistent demand by the agitated Congress-I members, who stalled the proceedings, and after hectic consultations by the speaker with floor leaders and the government.

Tamil Newspaper Office Attacked, 2 Killed 14 Aug

BK1608080691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1625 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 14 (AFP)—A group of 20 people raided a local news weekly office and stabbed to death two employees in Madras Wednesday, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

An unspecified number of staff with the Tamil language weekly, THARASU, were seriously injured, PTI said.

Shyam, editor of the weekly, alleged the attack was the work of activists from the Sri Lankan Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

He said the LTTE activists had raided the office with the backing of supporters from the local Tamil population due to differences with the weekly's editorial stance. However, there was no official confirmation of the editor's claims.

Some 200,000 Sri Lankan Tamils are estimated to have fled to southern Tamil Nadu state, of which Madras is the capital, in the wake of the violent LTTE campaign for an independent Tamil state in Sri Lanka. A number of LTTE militants are also believed to have fled to Tamil Nadu.

Former Provincial Secretary Arrested

BK1808090391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1919 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 16 (AFP)—Police Friday arrested a former senior government officer in connection with the recent mob attack on the office of a weekly newsmagazine in Madras during which two people were killed.

R. Nagarajan, former home secretary to the state government in Tamil Nadu, was taken into custody when he surrendered to police in the southern state's capital, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Two employees were stabbed to death after a group of 20 people stormed the offices of THARASU, a Tamil language weekly, in Madras Wednesday.

Shyam, editor of the weekly, had earlier been quoted by PTI as saying the attack was the work of activists from the Sri Lankan separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

He also alleged the violence, prompted by differences over the weekly's editorial stance, was backed by supporters from the local Tamil population.

Nagarajan was home secretary in the previous Tamil Nadu Government which was dismissed by New Delhi after the federal government accused it of failing to curb LTTE militants who have fled to the state from Sri Lanka.

Tamil Nadu, on the southernmost tip of India, is separated the narrow Palk Straits from Sri Lanka where the LTTE are waging a bloody separatist war.

12 LTTE Militants Commit Suicide in Karnataka

BK1808084691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] In Karnataka, 12 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants committed suicide when police raided their hideouts in Muttati and Chiratti villages in Mandya District last night. According to police sources, six militants each in the two villages who consumed cyanide capsules died instantly. Five others who had also swallowed the capsules were nabbed and were admitted to a hospital in Bangalore. Three of them were identified as Sashi, Silvam and Jain. A massive combing operation has been launched in and around the area after the incident. Special Investigating Team [SIT] and senior police officials are camping in the area.

Maoist Extremists Kidnap 4 in Andhra Pradesh

BK1708125691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, Naxalites [Maoist extremists] kidnapped four persons, including a mandal [rural] development officer and an assistant engineer from Warangal last night. They are demanding the release of three of their colleagues who were arrested by the police on Thursday [15 August] at Gandhipuram.

Naval Helicopter With 3 Reported Missing

BK1608152491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] A naval helicopter with three persons on board, which took off from Mangalore around noon today, is reported missing. According to airport sources in Bangalore, an aircraft has been sent to search for the missing helicopter.

Official Briefs on Missile Deployment Program

BK1608140191 Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] Madras, Aug 9 (UNI)—India's indigenously developed guided missiles "Prithvi" and "Trishul" will be deployed in the Armed Forces next year, acording to Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, director of the Defence Research and Development Laboratory [DRDL], Hyderabad and chief architect of the country's guided missile programe, said today.

The technology transfer for production of the missiles was progressing, Dr Abdul Kalam said while delivering the 28th convocation address of the Indian Institute of Technology here.

The Missile Programme has multiple projects—Prithvi, Nag, Akash, Agni and Trishul for multi-users.

The missiles employed state of the art technology and displayed the country's trajectory of independence from foreign technology (TIFT), Dr Kalam declared.

The improved version of the surface-to-air missile "Prithvi" was test fired successfully on August 7 from the Sriharikota range making the country one of the select group of nations possessing the missile Technology.

Thirtyfour institutions and research and development organisations were involved in the design and technology development and transer to 22 public sector undertakings, ten ordnance factories and nine private sector industries for production, Dr Abdul Kalam said.

He said it was decided that the complete design of the missile system could be carried out within the country using its resources for strategic reasons.

Even though developed countries had super-computers to evolve designs, "we settled down to computers we had with the lesson 'do not wait for more powerful super computers, but use the power of your minds,' he said.

Dr Abdul Kalam, however, observed that when the country was designing future aerospace systems, it would have super-computers through parallel processors designed and built within the country.

The missile's propulsive power comes from solid and liquid propellants or ram jet and the energy level already achieved in India is on par with the developed countries, Dr Abdul Kalam said. Similarly, in material technology missiles built in India use high strength materials like maraging steel and composites including the highest specific strength material called carbon-carbon.

The Strap-Down Guidance System with onboard computer developed and used in both "Prithvi" and "Agni" employed state of the art technology, he said.

A mobile launcher has been developed and was in use for the mobility of the missile.

Dr Abdul Kalam said for the first time in the world the re-entry vehicle structure (the payload of "Agni" reenters atmosphere with hypersonic speed experiencing external heating of 3000 degree centigrade) uses carbon composites and the nose section carbon-carbon.

Dr Abdul Kalam said carbon-carbon nose section developed at the DRDL was the technology of the future and that, so far, only two other countries possessed it.

Dr Abdul Kalam said phase shifters used for electronic beam steering in the phased array radar for tracking multiple target and guiding the missile has been developed by only one other country so far.

A total of 776 students including 105 PhD's were awarded degrees and diplomas at the convocation.

In all, 776 students—105 PhD, 65 MS, 293 M Tech [Master of Technology], 52 MSc, and 261 B Tech [Bachelor of Technology], of the IIT [Indian Institute of Technology] Madras graduated at today's convocation. For the first time in the history of IIT, Madras, the number of doctorates exceeded 100.

Report on Air Force's Nonoperational Il-76 Fleet

BK1208103191 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 Jul 91 p 1

[Express News Service]

[Text] New Delhi, July 30—Il-76, the mainstay of Indian Air Force's [IAF] transport fleet, is weathering turbulence following three mid-air mishaps in recent months. In all the cases, one of the four engines of this Soviet-made aircraft (rechristened Gajraj) exploded over the Western sector, forcing the pilots to make emergency landings.

Following the last accident, on April 1 this year, IAF temporarily grounded all its Il-76s. India has about two dozen of these giant planes, acquired from the Soviet Union in 1985.

The mishaps have made the top brass of IAF reach for the panic button, notwithstanding the straight face they maintain in public. It is for the first time that engine failure of such nature has struck IAF, and that too thrice in a short span of 11 months.

The April 1 incident saw the hurried arrival of experts from Soviet Union, who eventually detected the snag: a bearing affixed in the engine was not "cooling" properly. Remedy suggested: modification in the engine. The treatment started in the first week of May, and by the third week of July about half of the Il-76s have been sent to Sovet Union for engine modification.

The aircraft with modified engines have returned and are back in the air, but half of the fleet is still grounded, according to highly placed sources.

Sources disclosed that one apparent reason for the Il-76s developing engine snag well after five years of flying smoothly was the "wear and tear" factor, which takes about this much time to come to fore. But the major reason was that Il-76s, with its original engine, was not meant for high-temperature zones. The Soviets, who had developed the plane in 1971, never had to worry about the temperature as it rarely reaches beyond 20 degreee celcius in their country. It is only here that Il-76s have to brave a temperature of 30 degree celcius and above.

But what is worrying IAF at the moment is that it does not know how the modified Il-76s will perform in the near future as well as in the long run. How far the modification helps, only time—or maybe, another mishap—will tell.

However, if the senior IAF officials are unanimous over something, it is over the Il-76s ability to see them through in the most trying conditions. One of the first Indian aircraft to land in Maldives on November 3, 1988—carrying Indian soldiers to crush the coup there—was an Il-76. In 1987, it was used extensively to dispatch troops of Indian Peace Keeping Force to Sri Lanka.

Hegde Views Disqualification From State Assembly

BK1008133291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] The former Karnataka chief minister, Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde, has described his disqualification from the state assembly by the Election Commission as legally absurd, constitutionally perverse, and politically motivated. Addressing newspersons in Bangalore today, he said during the tenure as deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, he neither drew any salary nor used the official residence. Mr. Hegde demanded setting up of a house committee to probe the allegations of telephone tapping of political leaders by the Bangarappa government.

Janata Dal leader Mr. V.P. Singh has termed the disqualification of Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde from the membership of the state assembly as discriminatory and violative of all democratic norms. The former finance minister, Mr. Madhu Dandavate, in a statement, has also said the Karnataka government's order is prima facie most arbitrary and discriminatory.

Rao Meets Karnataka Congress-I Legislators

BK1208102491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Thirty-seven Karnataka Congress-I legislators today met the party president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and presented him a memorandum, demanding the replacement of Chief Minister Mr. S. Bangarappa. The dissidents were led by the deputy leader of the Congress-I legislature party, Mr. (Hachmasti Gowda) and included 32 MLA's [Members of Legislative Assembly] and five MLC's [Members of Legislative Council]. They are understood to have informed Mr. Rao on the omissions and commissions of the Bangarappa government in Karnataka and sought his advice in the larger interest of saving the party's image in so far as fulfilling the poll promises. Dissident sources said the legislators will also meet senior leaders of the party, including Mr. Arjun Singh, to apprise them of the situation in the state.

Congress-I To Support BJP Deputy Speakership

BK1208161891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the Janata Dal have fielded their candidates for the post of deputy speaker of the Lok Sabha. According to the Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, notices of motions proposing the names of Mr. S. Mallikarjunaiah, BJP, and Mr. Rashid Masud, Janata Dal, were received before the expiry of the deadline at 1200 noon today. The election is scheduled to take place after question hour tomorrow.

Mr. Mallikarjunaiah is the former deputy chairman of the Karnataka legislative council while Mr. Rashid Masud was a minister in the V.P. Singh government.

The Congress-I spokesman, Professor C.P. Thakur, has said as per well established democratic conventions, the deputy speakership should go to the principal opposition party and the Congress-I will extend its support to the candidate. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he hoped that the matter will be decided smoothly as it was at the time of the speaker's election. In reply to a question, he said as of now, the recognized principal opposition party in the Lok Sabha is the BJP.

BJP To Attend Parliament, End Protest

BK1208070291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] parliamentary party has decided to participate in the normal proceedings of the Lok Sabha. A party spokesman said the leader of the house, Mr. Arjun Singh, and the leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, will make statements in the Lok Sabha today respecting each other's sentiments. He said the issue is in no way linked with the election of the deputy speaker scheduled for tomorrow. Our parliamentary correspondent says the BJP decision will end the controversy over the reported remarks of Mr. Madhavrao Scindia, which rocked proceedings in the Lok Sabha on Thursday and witnessed a BJP walkout on Friday.

Commerce Minister on Supplementary Trade Policy

BK1308162891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] The commerce minister today announced dechannelization of 20 import and 16 export items and a new package for the 100 percent export-oriented units and export processing zones. In a supplementary trade policy made in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Chidambaram also announced a higher exim scrip rate for agro-based products. He said the government has decided to allow established exporters to open foreign currency accounts, popularly known as dollar accounts, to raise external credits. Later, briefing newsmen, Mr. Chidambaram said more items under the open general license scheme will be dechannelized for promoting export and decisions in this regard will be taken by March next year. Mr. Chidambaram said he has written to the prime minister urging him to withdraw the remaining curbs on imports.

Quoting provisional statistics, Mr. Chidambaram said in terms of dollars, there was a 6.5 percent negative growth in exports during April-June this year and a 11.7 negative growth in imports. He said this was a bad sign and might affect the growth targets.

Explaining the supplementary trade policy, Mr. Chidambaram said all export-oriented units in export processing zones will now be eligible for exim scrips. The replenishment system has been restructured to provide more incentives for all categories of exports and the procedure for advance license application has been simplified. He said the revised corporate plan of the STC and MMTC [State Trading Corporation and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation] has been cleared and they can now function as international trading houses in a competitive global market.

Minister Says Economic Destabilization Checked

BK1708091091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, says that with the measures taken by the government the process of economic destabilization caused by the foreign exchange crisis has been reversed. The outflow of deposits by nonresident Indians has also been checked. Addressing trade union leaders in New Delhi today, Dr. Manmohan Singh assured them that economic reforms will be carried out in a way that the working class is not adversely affected. He said that foreign investments will be channeled to areas where it is essential. The finance minister said that the economic reforms aim at generating more employment and containing price rise. He said the emphasis will be on making the public sector more efficient, productive and competitive so that it can generate resources for further investment. The finance minister sought the trade union leaders' cooperation in carrying out the industrial policy reforms and pulling the country out of the present economic crisis.

Technology To Decode Flight Recorders Developed

BK1208102291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] India has developed an inexpensive technology to decode digital flight data recorders. Inaugurating the three-day second SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Coopertion] sub-committee meeting of the air traffic control and communications in New Delhi, the director general of civil aviation, Mr. M.R. Shivaraman, said this will save a large amount of foreign exchange. Mr. Shivaraman said that a committee has been set up to study the latest development in satellite communication technology. He said it is imperative for the SAARC to draw an action plan in the development of technology and expertise in this sector to reduce dependence on Western countries.

Minister Discusses Pakistan Foreign Secretary's Visit

BK1808102691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The economic coordination cell in the Ministry of External Affairs has been strengthened to effectively communicate the benefits of the economic reforms package to foreign countries. Disclosing this to our correspondent in New Delhi today, the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, said that this will give renewed dynamism to carry forward the message of a favorable business environment in India through our missions and embassies abroad.

In response to a question on the visit of the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, later today, Mr. Solanki said Mr. Khan is carrying a special message from the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif. He hoped that the visit will open up possibilities of improving relationships with Pakistan.

Pakistan Official Arrives

BK1808125691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] The Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, arrived in New Delhi this evening. He has come as the special envoy of the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif. Mr. Khan was received at the airport by the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport, Mr. Khan said that he is carrying a message from his prime minister for the Indian prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, which he will deliver tomorrow. During his stay in the capital, he is likely to meet the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, and the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar.

Commentary Notes Deterioration in Pakistan

BK1208123291 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Commentary by S.L. Kaul: "On Turmoil in Pakistan"]

[Text] Events are taking place in Pakistan at a rapid pace. The people's party leader Ms. Benazir Bhutto's hunger strike in Islamabad is seen as the beginning of an offensive against the government of Nawaz Sharif, who after a hopeful start as the prime minister appears to be losing his grip. The present delicate law and order situation in Punjab seems similar to the dwindling law and order situation in Sindh.

The controversy over the 12th amendment of the Pakistan Constitution has made the situation worse. Ms. Bhutto has condemned it as a black law. She has said the manner in which this amendment has been adopted gives indication that the rulers are making a mockery of democracy. Even the right-minded people and jurists, the media people, and human rights activists consider the amendment as the black law. The FRONTIER POST says the bill is bound to have serious repercussions for the judicial system of the country. In this connection, the nation has recalled the well-known legal maxim that justice is not meant to be swift, it is meant to be just. Sardar Farooq Khan Leghari, deputy opposition leader of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] has said that his party would never support what he termed as the civil martial law in the garb of constitutional amendment which would give sweeping powers to the civil armed forces. Malik Ghulam Mustafa Khar, an independent member of the Pak National Assembly has also expressed strong feelings against the procedure adopted.

Several leaders have demanded resignation of the Nawaz Sharif government owing to deteriorating law and order situation in the country. Terrorism and lawlessness till recently confined to Sindh Province has now spread to other parts of the country. There are continued clashes between the supporters of Muhajir Qaumi Movement and fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami.

According to THE DAWN, the Amnesty International of London has expressed deep concern over torture and deaths in police custody in Pakistan. It pointed out that torture of political suspects in police custody is very common in Pakistan and the victims include women and children. There are also reports of clashes in tribal areas and complaints of forcible conversion of religious Hindu girls in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the political crisis in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir—POK—has become a serious matter. Ms. Bhutto has said she would support Mr. Mumtaz Rathore, ousted Prime minister of Pak-held Kashmir, who has threated to arm his supporters and wage a war against Pakistan. There has been widespread protests against the massive rigging in recent elections and the swearing in of Sardar Qayyum Khan as prime minister of POK. According to the Pak daily DAWN, the Baltistan Students Federation has launched a movement against the Islamabad government for not giving constitutional rights to the people of Pak-occupied territory of Kashmir. Ms. Benazir Bhutto has gone to the extent of saying that a motion would be moved in the National Assembly against excesses being perpetrated in occupied Kashmir. The Pakistan-based Kashmir leader, Dr. Farooq Haider of JKLF [Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front] faction said in Karachi that Islamabad should withdraw from occupied Kashmir, Gilgit and Baltistan.

Both the United States and Britain have in recent weeks shown clear understanding of the hollowness of Pakistan's sustained propaganda against so-called human rights violation in Kashmir. They have also expressed concern over violence and support to Kashmiri extremists. The U.S.-based human rights organization "Asia Watch" has in a report said the militants in Kashmir have violated human rights by indulging in killings, kidnappings, and attacks on civilians. It says the militants are getting arms and training from Pakistan.

What is interesting is that the Pak rulers always seek to blame India for the situation in Kashmir and internationalize the issue as the ploy to silence the opposition and draw a veil on the true conditions obtaining in their own country. India has made it clear that it is not interested in confrontation and is against interference in the internal affairs of other countries. Who will make Pakistan rulers realize that they should, instead of finding fault with India, try to set their own house in order first?

Egypt's Ghali Holds Talks With Rao 16 Aug

BK1608160391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] The Egyptian deputy prime minister for foreign affairs, Dr. Butrus Ghali, called on the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi today. They discussed issues to be taken up at the nonaligned ministerial meeting to be held at Accra next month and the G-15 summit to be held in Venezuela in November. Speaking to newsmen, Mr. Ghali said that one of the objectives of his visit to New Delhi is to seek India's support for an African candidate for the post of the UN secretary general which will be falling vacant by the end of this year. Mr. Ghali is one of the candidates. He said India has an important role to play in the settling of the Palestinian problem.

Report of Formation of Greater Nepal Kingdom

BK1308052491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, has said that state government is not aware of the alleged conspiracy about the formation of a greater Nepal kingdom involving the Darjeeling hills and Sikkim. After a meeting with Mr. Subhas Ghesing in Calcutta, Mr. Basu told newsmen that he has asked the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] leader to submit a detailed report on the issue. Mr. Ghesing said that it his duty to alert the center and the state government about the greater Nepal conspiracy and they should take firm action against those involved.

Iran

Tehran Reports Moscow, Baku TV Behavior

LD1908083591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Nehtwork in Persian 0730 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Central News Unit has reported that the first video report from Moscow suggests that the situation in the Soviet capital is apparently under control. Private and public vehicles are circulating and there are only signs of the movement of columns of armored personnel carriers in the streets.

In addition, since this morning, Moscow and Baku television networks have interrupted their normal programs and are only broadcasting music and foreign news. The first network of Baku radio has been devoted to broadcasting government statements in Russian, and the second network is continuing its normal programs. [passage omitted]

Tehran Radio Reports Gorbachev Ouster

LD1908080991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. At this hour, I draw your attention to reports on the latest developments following the resignation [as heard] of Mikhail Gorbachev.

Following the announcement that Mikhail Gorbachev had resigned from the USSR Presidency, Gennadiy Yanayev—who according to TASS has taken over due to Gorbachev's physical illness—declared a state of emergency for a period of six months starting at 0100 GMT.

In a statement after taking over, Yanayev announced: All power in the country is to be handed over to a state committee, due to the state of emergency in the country for the next six months. Gennadiy Yanayev's statement is addressed to the heads of the USSR and the UN Secretary-General. In his statement, the new Soviet President says: The state of emergency has been declared in order to overcome the expanding crises in ethnic clashes, violence, and chaos, and to maintain the territorial integrity, freedom, and independence of the nation.

A correspondent from one of the U.S. television networks reported moments ago that it appears that changes in the highest levels in the leadership cadres of the Soviet Union have led to Gorbachev's resignation from the presidency of that country. According to this report, the State Committee of the Soviet Communist Party—consisting of powerful figures in the leadership cadres of the Soviet Union such as Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov, Interior Minister Boris Pugo, the director of the KGB Vladimir

Kryuchkov, and other high ranking officials of the Soviet Union—signed Gorbachev's resignation.

The U.S. television network CNN reports: At around 1030 Tehran time, columns of personnel carriers belonging to the Soviet military were seen heading toward the Kremlin. The CNN reporter has also seen 30 armoured personnel carriers heading towards one of the railway stations. The same report indicates that Radio Echo, that could be heard in Moscow, has not been heard from the time of the outbreak of the news concerning Gorbachev's resignation. It could not be heard due to heavy jamming of its wavelength.

Gorbachev is 60 years old while his replacement is 54 years old. One of Gorbachev's closest advisors who resigned from his post last week, had warned of a coup d'etat by the communists in that country.

IRNA: 'State of Anxiety' Prevails in Moscow

LD1908103291 Tehran IRNA in English 0846 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Moscow, Aug. 19, IRNA—Army units, tanks and personnel carriers have been stationed in various locations in the Soviet capital and specially around the Kremlin palace after President Mikhail Gorbachev's removal from power Sunday night and declaration of state of emergency on Monday.

According to IRNA correspondent in Moscow, a state of anxiety prevailed over the capital following the replacement of Gorbachev by Vice President Gennadiy Yanayev late Sunday night, which was announced Monday morning. People are anxiously following the developments on Gorbachev's removal from power. However, the move has not changed the usual life of the citizens.

Government offices and shops are continuing their routine activities and so far there is no sign of people rushing to shops for supplies of foodstuff and other necessities.

Meanwhile, Moscow Radio is reportedly broadcasting statements issued after Gorbachev's replacement by Yanayev, appealing to people to fully observe the regulations declared after the state of emergency.

The state-owned TASS News Agency Monday morning announced that Gorbachev stepped down from power because of health reasons and was replaced by yanayev.

Khomeyni Stresses Freeing Shaykh 'Ubayd

LD1808101691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] At a gathering of members of the Islamic association of the teacher training university today, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni stressed the importance of preserving the ideas behind the Islamic revolution and persevering with the goals of the revolution and the system. He said: Carrying out divine injunctions and defending the rights of God's under-privileged servants are among the main goals of the revolution and the system, and efforts should be made to insure that the system's capabilities and resources are placed at the service of the perpetuation of the Islamic revolution.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni referred to the directives given by his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i about doing away with ostentation. He said: Ostentatious thoughts and deeds must be driven out of all levels of society, because devotion to material things plunges people into a whirpool of degradation and divine punishment.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni spoke on the issue of the release of Western hostages by Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries. He explained: On the issue of the release of hostages, the Westerners are, as on all other matters, making their own interests and demands the fundamental issue. If usurper Israel does not release Shaykh 'Ubayd and other detained Muslims, the problem of hostage-taking will undoubtedly not be resolved in the near future, and Muslims will show a suitable reaction to such an Israeli attitude.

Saying that the release of the hostages is a humanitarian measure, he added: If Westerners are really defenders of human rights, they must put pressure on the Zionist regime, so that thousands of Muslim hostages may be released from that country's prisons.

Velayati Rejects U.S. Regional Peace Proposals

LD1708123891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The president of the USSR Azerbaijan republic, who is currently visiting our country on our foreign minister's invitation, met Velayati today and submitted a report on the USSR's internal developments. He said major developments have taken place in USSR foreign policy; therefore, it is now possible for the various union republics to have closer relations with other countries. He added: We are keen to expand our cooperation with our powerful neighbor, the Islamic Republic of Iran. The USSR Azerbaijan president called for expanding cooperation in various fields, including energy, roads, railways, and the tehcnical and trade fields. He added: We must implement those understandings that were reached during the USSR Azeri prime minister's visit to Iran. [passage omitted]

At the end of his talk, he called for a solution to the Palestinian issue that would be in line with the rights of the Palestinian people.

Velayati spoke of Gorbachev's recent measures and recent developments in USSR foreign policy, saying: We support these measures and the establishment of democracy in the USSR. Pointing to the long history of relations between Iran and the USSR, Velayati said: The relations between the two countries, especially in the current phase, are expanding. Therefore, it is natural that the Islamic Republic of Iran establishes relations with those union republics with which it shares common views, especially the republic of Azerbaijan. Pointing to the Palestinian Muslims' situation, Velayati said: We do not believe in the U.S. proposals. We believe it is to the benefit of Israel and that it will strengthen the Zionist regime. He continued: The Palestinian people are the guarantors of Palestine's future. Finally, the foreign minister agreed with the proposal to create facilities allowing more travel between the two sides.

Velayati on Hostage Issue, Gulf Security

LD1808103491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Representatives of the European Parliament, headed by the Irish representative, together with the Iran-Ireland parliamentary friendship group met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati today. The European Parliament president's written message for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was first handed to our country's foreign minister.

Representatives of the Iran-Ireland parliamentary friendship group praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's humanitarian efforts regarding the release of hostages and thanked the government and people of Iran for their humanitarian attitude toward Iraqi refugees. They stressed our country's regional significance and credibility and called for further expansion of bilateral ties between Iran and Ireland.

A representative of the European Parliament expressed satisfaction at the expanding trend of Iran's relations with the European Community.

In reply, Mr. Velayati welcomed the expansion of Iran's relations with the European Community. On the release of hostages he said: A positive trend has evolved for solving that problem; and now pressure should be exerted on Israel to release Lebanese and Palestinian hostages.

In continuation, the foreign affairs minister called the involvement of the UN Secretary General in the efforts to release the hostages positive. He expressed hope that the secretary general's efforts will achieve satisfactory results.

In conclusion Mr. Velayati referred to the issue of security for the Persian Gulf region and called it vital for regional states. He rejected any security plan imposed from outside the region.

Yazdi on Mideast Conference, Hostages

LD1608135891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1013 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Middle East peace conference has been much debated and we have heard quite a lot about it. It must be said that the name of the second Camp David and the description of it as having started in Europe and ended in Washington are both correct. We all know that only the objectives of arrogance are being pursued. Our officials have reiterated many times, and it is again repeated here, that the world must be aware of the fact that any decision made at this session, in this conference, or any similar session or conference, that does not take into account the rights of the dear Palestinians and the real owners of Palestine is in no way practicable and capable of being implemented. [chants of "God is great"]

Naturally, the way of confrontation is the one that the intifadah has adopted. Because things cannot be done by logic and reason, one must perforce use the philosophy of the victory of blood against the sword, just as Hoseyn's Karbala', peace be upon him, used the philosophy of blood against the sword. Our system did the same, and there are other instances. It seems that at this stage also the same philosophy must be utilized. The revolution has recently taken the name of the revolution of sticks and stones; that is, the Muslim children come empty-handed into the arena and with sticks and stones alone stand against the most modern of world weaponry and politics. Certainly in the divine order such sanctified blood will triumph against Satanic plots.

The last issue is that of the hostages. These days this is much talked about. I would like humbly to ask you what the difference is between the Western and Eastern human beings. Why is it that even the United Nations, or the arrogant states led by America, give their own hostages so much credit and worth as if they come from heaven and the rest of the human beings are from the earth? What is the difference between them? Why must the Zionists' irrational words be dealt with by restraint and Satanic policies? When today the issue has been extended to such a point that even the UN secretary general has come into the arena and Mr. Perez de Cuellar is pursuing the issue, you should really accept that there are no differences between human beings. The Western and Eastern hostages are not any different from each other. They are all human beings, all worthy of respect. And they all must be taken into account. If Israel does not agree and gives irrational answers, then it must be stood up to, confronted.

Of course, the Islamic Republic of Iran has said many times from the beginning—it says so now and will always say so—that in principle we do not agree with hostage taking. If in a corner of the world, such systems were used, because people had come to the end of their tether, had their backs to the wall, and had no other choice—

well, if we had any influence with them and wanted to use it, this influence would be used in a case where in return you also accept that others are human beings as well and action must be taken for their release. I hope that the world, in return for claims about feeling sympathy for human beings, really shows by its deeds that it considers human beings and human rights as sacred.

Yazdi on 'Second Camp David,' Freedom of Hostages

LD1608113891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] On the threshold of the anniversary of the arrival of the proud liberated persons [prisoners of war released by Iraq] in the Islamic homeland, Iran today witnessed the holding of the immortal Mohammadan Friday prayers rites.

In Tehran, the political-religious Friday prayers were held with the participation of people from all walks of life, as well as a number of liberated persons, under the leadership of Ayatollah Yazdi, the head of the judicial branch.

In the first sermon, the acting Friday prayers leader of Tehran, citing certain verses and sayings, underlined the importance of establishing social and economic justice in society. He said: To achieve perfection one must endure difficulties and hardships; one must also have careful planning. He added: Those who plan to live in accordance with realities, and those who, while enduring difficulties, search for logical solutions are individuals who will succeed.

Continuing the discussion which he had begun the previous week on the judicial system in Islam, Ayatollah Yazdi said that the judicial establishment should be based on the principles which Islam would accept. We must also endeavor, as far as it is possible, to subject all Western influences imposed on our judicial system to revision, he stated. We must, with due regard to the imperatives of time and place, adopt the view of Islam and, as far as possible, simplify our working procedures.

In the second prayers sermon, Ayatollah Yazdi referred to passages in the guidelines that the leader of the revolution addressed to high-ranking officials when he held a meeting with them. Ayatollah Yazdi stressed the need for further such meetings to be held, and stated: If reminders are given one learns to think and to assess and reform one's deeds. Those who hold power in their hands must pay greater attention to such reminders.

Speaking on the same topic he said: God and the people must be kept in mind when one is engaged in one's work. If this is the case all complaints from and resentments against officials will disappear. He recalled the need for a simple life style which the great leader of the revolution [Khomeyni], as well as Ayatollah Khamene'i recommended. He said that human desire knew no limits and stressed: Luxury will defeat the regime.

Mr. Yazdi said: A third point which his eminence the imam talked about and the leader of the revolution has now stressed is the need to pay attention to the people, who are the original owners of the revolution. As such, the rights of the deprived and the meek must be observed.

Continuing the Friday prayers sermons Mr. Yazdi referred to the holding of a Middle East peace conference, which he described as the second Camp David. He added: This conference has no objectives but those of arrogance, especially America. He said: The world must know that decisions adopted at that conference which affect the rights of the dear Palestinians, the principal owners of that territory, could never be practical and applicable. He added: The rights of the people of Palestine cannot be achieved through argument; rather, it is imperative to follow the principle of the victory of blood over sword—a principle which Imam Hoseyn, peace be on him, and the Islamic revolution have adopted. We are sure that the immaculate blood of Palestinian youth will triumph over the plots of arrogance.

The acting Tehran Friday prayers leader, continuing the sermon, referred to the hostage issue and called for the observance of the rights and freedom of all the hostages.

Radio Stations 'Misleading' Public on Hostages

LD1608144391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0300 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary from the "Review of Foreign Broadcasts" program]

[Excerpts] The arrest [dastgiri] of Western spies and suspicious elements in Lebanon started as a result of an increase in the wave of violations by the United States, a number of Western countries, and Israel in that country. The groups, which had no other option but to defend the Lebanese people and their own independence, made use of the punitive policy of hostage taking to prevent the frenzied shelling of Beirut and the massacre of the people in the southern cities of that country by U.S. frigates and Israeli soldiers. This form of retaliation, accompanied by martyrdom attacks, produced positive results and forced the multinational forces to quit Lebanon.

Statements and communiques issued by the Lebanese hostage taking groups clearly indicate that they have no desire to continue that process and prolong the hostage taking issue. However, the exploitation of the hostage taking issue for propaganda purposes by the Zionists and the arrogant powers has not allowed the file of this crisis to be closed. Over the past few years, foreign radios, by providing hostile analyses of the hostage taking issue, have tried to portray this move as a form of kidnapping [adam-dozdi] and to arouse world public opinion against it as an inhumane act. These propaganda efforts have directed their attacks against the governments which have been against the expansionist policies of Israel and the West; the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been portrayed as a country which supports terrorist actions. At various junctures, the Lebanese groups have shown their goodwill on releasing the hostages and have called on the United States, the United Kingdom, and other Western governments to cooperate with them. However, the arrogant powers' hostile reaction at each juncture has obstructed the complete solution of this crisis.

Past experience has shown that prolonging the hostage-taking issue has gone against the interests of the revolutionary forces of the region, and now it is the arrogant and Zionist powers who are benefitting from the continuation of this crisis. The groups which are holding the hostages believe that the hostage-taking crisis should be solved by both sides simultaneously demonstrating their goodwill. As part of the deal, hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinian detainees who have been kidnapped by Israel should also be released. However, this request has been left unanswered each time by resorting to this demagogic excuse that such an action would be tantamount to making deals with the terrorists.

We now witness in this saga the Islamic Jihad Organization's initiative to involve the UN secretary general in this matter. Simultaneous with the announcement of this initiative, the Islamic Jihad Organization released a UK hostage as a sign of goodwill. [passage omitted]

Can one really hope that this issue will now be solved? It seems that on this side of the issue, namely the groups which are holding the foreign hostages, there is real desire to end this long crisis. However, there is no willingness and desire on the other side—namely in the United States, the UK, and Israel—as they benefit more from prolonging the crisis. The political stand of those governments and their hostile propaganda remove the veil from the intentions of the coalition of the arrogant-Zionist powers. [passage omitted]

Israel, which has kidnapped and is holding hostage hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinians, including Shaykh 'Ubayd, has the main role to play in this matter. If the Zionist regime which implements the arrogant policies of the West in the region insists on her present stand, the current efforts will not produce any results and will end in failure. Meanwhile, the pressures exerted by the UN secretary general cannot be effective either, because he does not possess sufficient executive power for imposing his views. While the future course of the current attempts is unclear, the efforts of foreign radios for making propaganda use of the issue and misleading public opinion continue unabated. [passage omitted]

The main root for continuing this ten-year crisis should be sought in the Western and Israeli policies. If, as they claim, they intended to see a final solution to this crisis, it would have now been turned to a distant memory. Informed political sources believe that from time to time the struggling Lebanese groups demonstrate their goodwill to test the readiness of the other parties confronting them. However, at each juncture they have lost hope and have adopted a policy of patience and waiting for a time. There is no reason to interpret their goodwill gesture in any other way now. If they meet with a reaction similar to previous occasions, there is no reason why they might agree to a unilateral solution of the crisis.

Therefore, although now there is a new opportunity for the complete solution of the hostage-taking crisis, the condition for its complete success is the cooperation and assistance of other countries who are effective in solving this crisis.

Commentary: U.S. 'Cannot Emerge as Sole Power'

LD1608125791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to dispatches, on Tuesday [13 Aug] U.S. President George Bush presented to the U.S. Congress the strategic plan of the National Security Council which he has drawn up for 1992. Although details of this plan have not been released, Bush, in a letter appended to this plan, has outlined the main U.S. objectives for the coming year.

He has hinted in the letter: America's national security strategy for the next year is unprecedented, considering the fact that Washington was not in a position at any juncture of history to promulgate a strategy for the world, but now it enjoys such a position.

Turning the [word indistinct] will include: Imagine that in the wake of the defeat of communism and the elimination of the Soviet superpower from equations determining international strategy, America will have no challenger on the world scene and that it will assume the world leadership. However, they are ignorant of the fact that all indications point to the future world order being a multipolar order in which economic power will play main and prime role. The United States which is facing new and serious economic problems every day, cannot emerge as the sole power determining international issues. Today, the united Germany, in its capacity as a major economic power, figures alongside Japan, which has eclipsed all other rivals since the '80s as a power competing with America on the international scene.

America, which by mobilizing its allies' forces managed to drive aggressor Saddam out of Kuwait, now imagines itself with the same ease to be able to govern international politics with the help of the supremacy of the USA's single power role for establishing a new world order.

In his letter to the U.S. Congress, Mr. Bush has deemed revival of Western democracy in East Europe and the allies' victory in the Persian Gulf as factors for declaring U.S. supremacy and status in the present day world. However, the U.S. President has forgotten to point [out] that if the Marxist-Leninist ideology on account of its inflexible dogmatism has made its exit from the scene as a rival ideology, a strong Islamic revolution and the thoughts of revolutionary Islam in their capacity as a superior idea have been revived in the world instead, and these are moving forward to emerge into a viable power in the face of the dominant atheism and insecurity by communicating their universal message to the oppressed masses.

In this letter, George Bush, noting that the world is at present plagued with racial segregation, conflict, religious tension, spread of weapons of mass destruction and egoism, has referred to America's trouble in resolving these problems, something which is viewed as the most interesting point of the letter. (?The White House), which is to be blamed for causing regional tensions and spreading lethal weapons, introduces itself as the leading force to overcome international crises. It appears that the best thing to do for America, in this regard, is to stop the export of destructive weapons and terminate military aid to regimes like the one in Tel Aviv, which are mainly responsible for regional tension, but everyone knows that Washington continues to be a warmonger, while posing as a pacifist.

'Israel Alone' To Suffer for Hostage Situation

LD1708204191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Uri Lubrani, the Israeli official enquiring into the whereabouts of the Israeli prisoners in Lebanon, yesterday reiterated: settlement of the hostage crisis is subject to information about the Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon. This is at a time when the Zionist regime, while agreeing to release prisoners, has declared last week: this release should be in the form of an exchange involving the seven missing Israeli servicemen or their corpses.

In this midst, the Hizbollah Party officials have announced that they hold two of the seven missing Israeli military men, and are willing to negotiate their release. (?It is to add) that four other Israeli servicemen have been killed, while one of them is held by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

This shift in the Zionist regime's stance for the termination of the hostage issue, and also the expression of such preconditions have been interpreted by political observers as the creation of obstruction by that regime in the case of the hostages.

At the same time, the Zionist regime's war minister, too, has clearly spoken about the Muslim prisoners, especially Shaykh 'Ubayd, as (?pressure leverage) in favor of Tel Aviv. The Zionist regime's officials are endeavouring to divert attention of world public opinion from the urgent releases of the jailed Lebanese Muslims, and to gain maximum advantage out of this issue.

While international circles and Western governments are in a position to employ the necessary leverage against Israel, they are avoiding such a move. Concerning any measures to bring about a shift in the Israeli policy and the hostages, America has expressly declared that it will not use its influence at all.

In another development, families of the Lebanese jailed by the Zionist regime yesterday staged a protest rally in front of the UN office in Beirut. While denouncing the policy of the Western leaders, they demanded the freedom of their jailed relatives.

Also, a Lebanese theologian, hitting out at United States policy aimed at diverting attention from the hostage crisis, blamed Washington for creating a stalemate in this regard. Making a distinction between Lebanese Muslims languishing in Zionist dungeons after having been abducted from homes and land and the aggressor Israeli servicemen who were taken prisoner in the course of military attacks against Lebanon, he said: how can the United States President call such prisoners of war innocent individuals?

At any rate, the problems created in the way of the release of hostages cannot be resolved without exerting pressure on the Zionist regime to free the Palestinian and Lebanese hostages and also the Lebanese theologian Shaykh 'Ubayd. The initiative leading to the release of some of the Western hostages has certainly created very fertile ground for the freedom of all hostages at this juncture and any negligence in this regard will be to the detriment of Israel alone.

Minister, Malaysian Premier Criticize U.S.

LD1708174491 Tehran IRNA in English 1248 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohammad on Saturday said he was suspicious of the U.S. Middle East peace plan and concerned about the situation of the Palestinian people.

The Malaysian premier made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian minister of post, telephone and telegraph Mohammad Gharazi who is currently visiting Kuala Lumpur. Mohammad also received a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani dealing mainly with recent developments in the region and the issue of Palestine.

Gharazi made it clear that the peace plan the U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James

Baker wanted to impose on the region would fall through just as previous plots did. "The Islamic ummah (nation) in the region is firm and will never accept any imposed plan," he said.

"To us, the issue of Palestine and Beyt-ol Moqaddas are not matters of sentiment," he said while pledging the Islamic Republic's support for Muslims' logical stance.

The Iranian minister arrived in Kuala Lumpur from Jakarta where he submitted a similar message from President Rafsanjani to his Indonesian counterpart President Suharto.

Rafsanjani Meets Lebanese Hizballah Leaders

LD1808153191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Secretary General 'Abbas Musawi and other members of Lebanon's Hizballah Movement Leadership Council were received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning. In the meeting, at which Foreign Minister Velayati was also present, first Mr. Sa'id 'Abbas Musawi submitted a report on the latest developments in Lebanon, the plight of the deprived and oppressed people of that country, in particular the Muslims and the Islamic Resistance Movements' struggles in the south of that country.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in turn, having expressed support for Lebanon and its people in the face of the conspiracies threatening Lebanon's independence and unity, emphasized the need for unity among all factions and forces, so as to prevent the continuation of southern Lebanon's occupation. He then turned his attention to the serious situation in the region and the ongoing attempts aimed at undermining Palestinian aspiration.

Expounding the various dimensions of conspiracies hatched by global arrogance, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated the need for Muslim and progressive forces of the region, as well as the free and nonaligned countries of the world, to be vigilant and totally prepared. Concluding his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared the Islamic Republic of Iran's total support for the heroic struggles of the Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims for the liberation of the occupied territories, especially the noble Qods [Jerusalem].

Velayati Meets With Lebanon Hizballah Leadership

LD1708151591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Mr. 'Abbas Musawi, secretary general of Lebanon's Hizballah group, and the other members of the Hizballah leadership council met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati today. During the meeting, they discussed and exchanged views on the latest developments in Lebanon and the region. During the meeting, Mr. Musawi submitted a report on the current situation in Lebanon, the condition of the Muslim community in particular the Shi'as, and also the anti-Zionist struggles of the Islamic resistance movement.

Mr. Velayati, pointing to the Islamic Republic of Iran's special concern for the Lebanese situation and the general condition of that country's people, emphasized the need for supporting the oppressed Lebanese nation in the face of the existing problems and adversities. Also, expressing Iran's total support for the Lebanese people's resistance and steadfastness—notably the Shi'as in the south—against the Zionist enemy, Mr. Velayati described any effort toward linking the occupation of southern Lebanon by the Zionists, with the issue of the occupied territories, as a dangerous conspiracy waged against Lebanon's independence, territorial integrity, and unity. He added: Under current circumstances, it is vital that the forces and the people of Lebanon, as well as all those who defend Lebanon's freedom, independence, and unity—whether on an official, or unofficial level—should consider, and attempt to find practical ways of liberating the occupied territories, as well as providing all-embracing support for the struggles of the Palestinian people, in particular the intifadah.

Azerbaijani President Arrives in Tehran

LD1608162291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Ayaz Mutalibov, president of Soviet Azerbaijan, arrived in Tehran today at the head of a political delegation. He was welcomed by our country's foreign minister.

On his arrival, Mutalibov was interviewed by our correspondent. He expressed his immense pleasure at visiting Tehran and said that the visit is in accordance with the mutual respect between Soviet Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also emphasized the common religious, historical, and cultural links between the two nations.

Pointing to the lofty character of Imam Khomeyni, may God's blessing be upon him, the Soviet Azerbaijani president described his eminence as a character valuable to the two Muslim nations of Iran and Soviet Azerbaijan.

Concluding the interview, he described his visit to Iran as a turning point in the strengthening of mutual ties between Soviet Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic.

Foreign Minister Velayati was also interviewed by our correspondent. He described the Soviet Azerbaijani president's visit to Tehran as a significant step in the strengthening of friendship and bilateral ties between the Islamic Republic and the USSR. He said: The nations of

Iran and Soviet Azerbaijan have enjoyed good neighborly ties over the past few years, a factor which has been growing throughout the leadership of Mr. Gorbachev. He added: Fortunately, all the agreements signed between the USSR and the Islamic Republic with regard to the establishment of consular facilities and travel by the two countries' citizens have been implemented. We hope that Mr. Mutalibov's visit to Iran will lead to the further promotion of these ties.

Meets With Rafsanjani

LD1808101191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, received Soviet Azerbaijan President Mutalibov this morning. During the meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, the president of Soviet Azerbaijan relayed the warm greetings of USSR President Gorbachev, and termed his negotiations with our country's officials on ways of expanding cooperation as very useful. Pointing to developments at international level, especially in the USSR, he said: There is no doubt that these developments can have a significant effect on the expansion of our cooperation. For us, the expansion of relations with Iran, as a powerful neighboring country, is of particular importance.

In response, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Mr Gorbachev for his warm message. Speaking of his trips to Moscow and Soviet Azerbaijan, he said: We will never forget the hospitality of the people and officials of the Soviet Union and Azerbaijan. In Azerbaijan, I constantly felt that I was among people and authorities whose feelings and kindness resemble those of the people of Iran.

In another part of his remarks the president pointed to the positive negotiations he had in Moscow with Mr Gorbachev on the expansion of relations and cooperation between the two neighboring countries and expressed his hope that the relations between the two countries, both with the central government and with the other republics—especially the Soviet Azerbaijan Republic—continue to expand.

Said Cutting Visit Short

NC1908070491 Paris AFP in English 0649 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug 19 (AFP) - The president of the southern Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, Ayaz Mutalibov, is to cut short an official visit to Iran and return home on Monday, diplomatic sources said here.

Mutalibov decided to leave two days early and fly either to Moscow or the Azerbaijani capital Baku after learning overnight Sunday of Mikhail Gorbachev's ouster as Soviet president, the sources said.

Mutalibov had been due to visit eastern Iran after holding talks here on Sunday with Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Rafsanjani Warns Against Revolution's Opponents

LD1708151691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Aug 891

[Excerpts] A speech by President Rafsanjani opened a large gathering of cultural and educational establishments from throughout the country at the Shahid Afrasiabi Hall in Tehran's Shahid Shirudi Sports Complex.

In his speech, Mr. Rafsanjani described cultural and educational establishments as bastions for the defense for human honor and generosity. He said: Investment in education is the most effective kind of investment. The activities of these centers presage the country's cultural growth along the most appropriate path. [passage omitted]

He then referred to obstructionism and the spreading of poisonous propaganda by internal and external opponents of the revolution. He pointed out that: They are able to make their views penetrate into the countryside to bring about the cultural decline of communities. If those Satans succeed in capturing the hearts and minds of our youth, it will be a regrettable disaster. [passage omitted]

Mobilization Forces Slated for Restructuring

LD1608105991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] The country's entire basijis [mobilization forces] will implement missions pertaining to defense of cities under a well coordinated popular organization. Guard Brigadier General 'Alireza Afshar, National Resistance Force commander, announced the news, adding that the project divides the basijis into three units—special, active, and normal—to carry out their obligations. They will be taught military, nonmilitary, and personal defense, as well as first aid. They will also be given ideological and political instruction. The National Resistance Force commander noted that programs to familiarize students with various instruments and military equipment will be expanded at various educational levels, such as secondary and high schools for girls and boys throughout the country.

Opposition Urges Respect of 'Public Freedoms'

NC1808191491 Paris AFP in English 1841 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug 18 (AFP) - A banned Iranian opposition group, the Iran Liberation Movement (ILM), has called on President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to ensure that public freedoms are respected in accordance with the constitution.

In an open letter to the president, a copy of which was made available to AFP on Sunday, the ILM said "political freedom in the country requires that everyone has the right to criticize and protest and not simply those close to power."

The group, founded in 1961 by Mehdi Barzagan, prime minister in a 1979 provisional government, urged authorities here to "show their solidarity with Iranian exiles and Iranians still in the country."

"Many Iranians living in Iran feel more foreign and exiled than those outside," according to the group.

"All Iranians, their religious opinions and their political affiliations are equal under the Iranian constitution."

The ILM has several times demanded that its offices, closed in 1988, be allowed to reopen.

Clashes, Calls for Overthrow of Regime Reported

TA1908080291 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Reports that have reached us during the past 24 hours confirm the intensity of popular struggles in most cities, including Esfahan, Tabriz, Hamadan, Semnan, Tehran, Mashhad, and Shiraz. Moreover, due to the death and injury of some of our compatriots at the hands of the regime's hooligans on Saturday, 17 August, severe clashes between the people and the security forces have been reported from various towns in our homeland.

Furthermore, the people, who until the beginning of last week were primarily raising their social welfare demands and protesting the high cost and shortage of essential commodities, have begun to openly chant slogans calling for the overthrow of the Islamic Republic regime. The people are resolved to continue these demonstrations and struggles until the regime is toppled.

'Horrific Explosions' Heard in Iraq

LD1708154691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] The sound of several horrific explosions have been heard during the past 48 hours along the southern borders with Iraq. An IRNA report from Ahvaz states that the noise from the explosions, which reveals that the Iraqi Ba'thist forces are using heavy weapons to suppress the oppressed people in the south of the country, was clearly heard in the city of Khorramshahr. According to the report, it is possible that the explosions occured in the Abu al Khasib region.

Nepal & Bhutan

Ruling Congress Party Deplores Nationwide Strike

BK1708084891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0849 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 17 (AFP)—The central committee of Nepal's ruling Congress Party condemned Saturday a call by both rightists and leftists for two general strikes in the coming week in support of disgruntled civil servants.

The government employees have been agitating for improved salaries and allowances for the past six weeks.

But in a statement, committee spokesman Yog Prasad Upadhyay said the people would reject calls by both the rightists and leftists to strike Sunday in the Kathmandu Valley and across the country on Thursday.

He also said leftist opposition parties in the country's parliament had failed to honor a pledge of constructive support to the government.

"Coming as it does at a time when talks are underway with the main leftist opposition, the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist).... This call without any warning has left us astounded", the statement said, adding that civil servants are a relatively privileged class in the impoverished country.

"Civil servants account for only two percent of the entire population of Nepal but take over 60 percent of the country's earnings, leaving less than 40 percent to the remaining 98 percent of the people," Upadhyay said.

"Every Nepali is today starting to ask how far this is justifiable."

Pakistan

* Articles Attack U.S. Ambassador-Designate

* Called 'Anti-Pakistani'

91AS1276A Karachi JANG in Urdu 2 Jul 91 p 3

[Editorial: "The New Ambassador's Views"]

[Text] The ambassador-designate for Pakistan, Mr. Nicholas Platt, told the Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs that the U.S. aid to Pakistan will not be reinstated until the United States was satisfied about Pakistan. He advised India and Pakistan to tolerate each other, give up enmity, and become friends. He also said that no agreement about non-proliferation of nuclear weapons will be made with Pakistan.

The opinions expressed by the ambassador-designate represent the U.S. policy toward Pakistan. One thing is clear: The United States will not give any aid without stopping Pakistan's nuclear program. It considers Pakistan at the same level as Maldives and Sri Lanka when compared to India. The advice that the U.S. ambassador has given to Pakistan should have been given to India. It is India which has never honestly recognized Pakistan's existence and is ignoring its promise about Kashmir that it made in front of the whole world. The U.S. ambassador also knows that India exploded a nuclear bomb in 1974 and opposes every proposal to keep the Indian Ocean and South Asia pure of nuclear activities. Still, the U.S. pressure on this issue is aimed at Pakistan. It is not difficult to guess the attitude of the ambassador-designate from his expressed opinions. He has announced his policy about Pakistan even before coming here.

* Calls for New Ambassador

91AS1276B Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 30 Jun 91 p 3

[Editorial: "The New U.S. Ambassador: The Wrong Beginning"]

[Excerpt] The U.S. ambassador-designate to Pakistan, Mr. Nicholas Platt, told the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs that the aid to Pakistan will remain suspended until the problem of nuclear program is resolved. The newly-appointed ambassador said exactly what he was briefed about the U.S. aid and Pakistani nuclear program. He did not even try to consider some new development in this context and also chose to ignore the view point that the U.S. Congress has adopted that this issue should be considered within the context of regional strife. Pakistan has always maintained this stand that it should have the nuclear deterrent to face India which has nuclear capability and the traditional armed forces that include the blue water navy, something that only superpowers have. Otherwise, it would be difficult for Pakistan to protect its existence if India attacks it. Pakistan had requested the United States to make its decision keeping in mind Pakistan's limitations. However, the United States unilaterally made Pakistan victim of its prejudice and hate. The United States is patient with India's nuclear program. Now, the U.S. Congress has accepted Pakistan's point of view and has imposed the Pressler Amendment on India by a special resolution. The U.S. government has commended Mr. Nawaz Sharif's proposal to call a five-nation conference of Pakistan, India, China, the Soviet Union, and the United States to stop the nuclear race in the subcontinent. Thus, Pakistan was able to have its position accepted. Now, it is time to carry out concrete lobbying to inform the U.S. government and the public about Pakistan's defense needs. We should ask the United States why it has continued giving aid to Israel in spite of its nuclear program. The most important question is: Who gave the United States the right to become a nuclear power? The members of the nuclear club worry that the nuclear capability can go into wrong hands if it is allowed to everyone and it could jeopardize the existence of human race. We ask, what assurance is there that the United States and other nuclear countries will remain peaceful? Nuclear weapons have been used twice to this date and both times the guilty party was the United States. None of the "irresponsible" nations have used the nuclear weapons so far. A lot of noise was raised against Iraq's nuclear weapons and poison gas. However, Iraq never used such weapons or gas against the allies during the last war. The United States used chemical weapons in Vietnam. Against this background, it does not behoove the United States to criticize any other country's nuclear program. The second part of the statement issued by the U.S. ambassador-designate calls for more attention. He said that, Pakistan's future depends on its better relations with India. The "advice" the honorable ambassador is giving us is equivalent to mocking Pakistan's internal affairs, national freedom, and independence. Pakistan has full independence in its internal and foreign policy according to the U.N. charter. No other nation has any aright to force its conditions on Pakistan. The U.S. ambassador has already formed an opinion before even coming to this region. The implementation of this opinion is not possible in the present regional politics. The United States and its ambassadors should develop respect for the independence and national pride of these countries. It would be even better if the U.S. Senate appoints this ambassador as an itinerant ambassador for India and Pakistan. This would help the Senate understand the real issues and appoint another ambassador for Pakistan.

Convoy Accompanying Bhutto Attacked, 3 Hurt

BK1808011991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1908 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Aug 17 (AFP)—A convoy of cars accompanying former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was attacked here Saturday by armed men who set on fire one vehicle and injured at least three activists, opposition sources said.

Bhutto was unhurt in the incident.

The incident occured when Bhutto, leader of the opposition Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), visited the house of a slain party activist Sardar Ahmed, who was murdered here last month by unknown gunmen, they said.

The PPP blamed the attack on Bhutto's convoy on the rival ethnic Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) representing Urdu-speaking settlers.

According to PPP sources, dozens of MQM activists, some of them armed, had gathered near Ahmed's house in the Orangi area.

When Bhutto left, the MQM activists chanted anti-Bhutto slogans, threw stones at the vehicles and fired some shots in the air, they said.

At least three occupants of one of the cars in the convoy were then attacked and beaten and the car set on fire in the presence of police, the PPP said.

MQM leaders were not immediately available for comment on the allegations.

Some residents of the area however said that supporters of late President General Zia Ul Haq, who had arranged a meeting to observe his third death anniversary, were enraged when Bhutto's convoy passed them and started pelting it with stones.

Indian Army Attack at Khoi Rata Sector Repulsed

BK1908053091 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 19 Aug 91 pp 1, 10

[Text] Muzaffarabad—Pakistan army has repulsed Indian troops attack in Khoi Rata sector of Azad Kashmir. Indian army-crossed the Control Line at Janjot Bahadur (Balilah Gallah) on Sunday and intruded into Azad Kashmir territory. They advanced up to 2 furlong and resorted to firing. Pakistan army retaliated and forced the intruders to retreat from Azad Kashmir area thus suceeded in repulsing Indian attack.

As a result of Indian troops' firing Mistri Muhammad Sadiq was seriously injured. He has been admitted to DHQ Hospital, Kotli. The firing also resulted in the killing and wounding of number of cattle.

According to people of the area Indian army has been resorting to firing for the last three years and in consequence a number of persons have been killed. They stated that the people of Azad Kashmir in this sector were not permitted even to reap their harvest. Panic has gripped the area and people have been forced to migrate to other places. The people of the area have urged the authorities to provide ambulance, enabling them to transport the injured persons to hospitals. They have also demanded supply of edibles, calling upon Government of Pakistan to take serious notice of Indian aggression.

Indian troops have been firing ceaselessly for the last three days with heavy weapons in Neelam Valley. According to the correspondent, a civilian has been and the firing continues[as published].

Due to unprovoked firing by Indian troops people of Neelam Valley have shifted to safer places.

United Nations should reassert its role in solving the issue of self-determination of Kashmiris as it has done recently in case of Kuwait, Western Sahara and Eritrea.

This was stated by a spokesman of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), Zafar Khan in his statement before the United Nations Subcommission on prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, Geneva.

He said it was in 1957 that the UN Security Council passed a resolution on the question of self-determination of Kashmiris. Since then, the matter has not been considered because it was known that the veto would be used by Indian allies to block any decision, questioning India's continued occupation, contrary to the UN Charter.

The people of Kashmir, the spokesman stated continued to oppose Indian rule throughout the years, but in 1990 encouraged by the events in Eastern Europe, Namibia and South Africa, they took to the streets in the largest demonstrations seen in the world.

According to Mr. Zafar, in April 1990, a million people marched in Srinagar, the capital of Indian-occupied Kashmir.

The Indian authorities have always responded by shooting unarmed civilians at random. Independent reports including several by Indian human rights groups such as the Committee for initiative on Kashmir, documented the violence.

He urged the world body and its relevant institutions, to ensure that wanton and systematic acts of violence by the Indian security forces, including rape, arson, humiliating and degrading treatment of people in custody are stopped.

The JKLF spokesman termed the large military presence by India in Kashmir as a threat to peace and security of the region.

He declared that if the route to freedom of Kashmiris by peaceful and democratic means is blocked, the prople of Kashmir will have no alternative but to assert their rights by the use of appropriate means.

He called for the withdrawal of occupation forces from Kashmir.

He made it clear that nothing short of complete and unfettered right to self-determination can secure the dignity and safety of nearly 13 million Kashmiris.

International Kashmir Conference Planned by Oct

BK1608112691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] An international conference on Kashmir would be convened by October this year to expose Indian brutalities and human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. This was stated by the AJK [Azad Jammu and Kashmir] prime minister, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, while briefing editors of the national dailies and magazines in Islamabad today.

Referring to the ongoing freedom movement in the occupied territory, the AJK prime minister stressed that the Indian government had used all tactics to quell the movement, but had failed to dampen the spirit of Kashmiris.

New Army Chief Asif Nawaz Assumes Command

BK1608144391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Lieutenant General Asif Nawaz has been promoted to the rank of a general and he has taken over the command of the Army effective today. Gen. Asif Nawaz received his primary military training at the Royal Academy at Sandhurst in the United Kingdom. He was commissioned in the Sherdil Battalion of Punjab Regiment in 1957. Gen. Asif Nawaz is a graduate of Command and Staff College of Quetta and National Defense College of Rawalpindi. He held a number of positions at the Command and Staff College. He was bestowed with the Hilal-i-Imtiaz, Military; Sitara-i-Wasalat; and bars for his outstanding services.

No Wayward Dealings Found in BCCI Pakistan

BK1908070291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1142 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Karachi, Aug 18 (AFP)—A central bank probe found no evidence of fraud or money-laundering against the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), Pakistan, the newspaper DAWN said here Sunday.

But opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said a "bunch of crooks" in the BCCI had destroyed this "great moslem institution," and that she would raise the issue in parliament.

The former premier charged that some of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's relatives had connections with the BCCI.

The daily said a high-level committee of the State Bank of Pakistan, which the government appointed to investigate alleged malpractices, is to submit a formal report on its findings this week.

"The committee looked into all the activities of the bank, but all the operations were found to be clear and in accordance with the rules," the report quoted an unidentified senior state bank official as saying.

The committee also checked the accounts of the top 65 BCCI debtors who received more than 50 percent of six billion rupees (about 240 million dollars) in loans given by the bank, which has three Pakistan branches, the report said.

Foreign press reports alleged that the bank had given large unsecured loans to some influential families in Pakistan.

In an interview published here Sunday by the English-language daily THE NEWS, Bhutto said the BCCI affair has "deeply affected Pakistanis, moslems and the third world countries."

While praising the founders of BCCI, Bhutto said: "I also believe there were a bunch of crooks in the bank who brought down this great Muslim institution."

"Rather than cover up their activities, they should be exposed," the opposition leader said.

Bhutto said she would try to get the list of BCCI depositors who were Pakistanis and find out whether they could justify the amounts they had.

She levelled charges of corruption against family members of the president and said the opposition's patience has been "completely exhausted by the relentless oppression unleashed by the government."

All Gas Leaks Near Rawalpindi Controlled

BK1608133291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] All the three gas leakages from Pindori oil and gas fields near Rawalpindi have been controlled by the Occidental Oil Company. Official sources told Radio Pakistan's representative this afternoon that the company succeeded to control the third leakage point today by replacing the ruptured point.

Editorial Views Afghan Problem, Peace

BK1608135591 Karachi DAWN in English 1 Aug 91 p 11

[Editorial: "In Search of an Afghan Peace"]

[Text] The trilateral conference on Afghanistan held in Islamabad should not generate too much optimism about a peaceful settlement in that strife-torn country in the immediate future. So deep are the splits in the Afghan groups that it was quite a major achievement in itself that the conference was held at all, though two of the hardline parties chose to stay away. What, however, imparts a degree of importance to the latest exercise in peacemaking is that the guerillas based in Iran and Pakistan as well as their main supporters, namely the governments in Islamabad and Tehran, are now striving to work out a common approach to the problem that has bedevilled the region for more than a decade. Hence Foreign Minister Velayati's three-day visit to attend this conference.

Another positive aspect of the Islamabad conference is that the parties present have conceded that the UN Secretary-General's five-point plan could serve as a possible basis of settlement of the Afghan problem. In view of the fact that the Afghan interim government had earlier rejected this plan as a basis for negotiation, this acceptance, even though a qualified one, is a step forward. Since Mr Perez de Cuellar's plan at present offers the only framework for a negotiated peace in Southwest Asia and has found support in all the major capitals of the world, it would have been a pity if it had been rejected out of hand by the mojahedin, the party to be most directly affected by the future settlemen. By persuading some of the Peshawar-based guerillas to adopt a more favourable approach to the plan, the Pakistan government has certainly improved the peace prospects.

At the same time it is plain that a lot more persuasion remains to be done. At present, the main snag in the way of initiating the peace process is the inability of the various parties to agree on a transitional mechanism to hold elections for a broadbased government in Kabul. Given the military stalemate in Afghanistan and the inability of either side to win a decisive victory, it is logical that the provisional machinery that is set up to pave the way for a long-term political arrangement must enjoy the approval of all the Afghan parties that have been at loggerheads. The hardliners among the mojahedin, some of whom are still hopeful of a military victory, have refused to accept any power-sharing arrangement in which the rulers in Kabul will have a role. The Islamabad conference has, evidently, failed to make any headway on this count. By demanding the replacement of the "present illegal government" in Kabul, the participants have rejected any role for President Najibollah's party in the interim set-up that will be crucial for carrying the peace process to its logical conclusion.

Protracted negotiations and hard bargaining seem to be on the cards before any meaningful progress on Afghanistan can be expected. An informal dialogue of sorts has already been taking place among some of the major players in the Afghan game—Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, China, the US, the USSR and the UN's Special Representative. There also seems to be some meeting of minds between them. The difficulties that have arisen come from the Afghan quarters. Not only have the mojahedin failed to adopt a reasonably unified stance. Some of them have not proved themselves flexible enough in their approach.

The far-reaching changes in the international political environment have created a compulsion for a peaceful settlement of the Afghan issue. After the fall of Khowst in April, the thrust towards intensifying the military struggle in Afghanistan never materialised, as some optismists had promised. Meanwhile, the flow of economic and military assistance to the guerillas has also been suspended. Donor fatigue has led to a slashing of the humanitarian aid the refugees were receiving. Most important of all, the polarisation between the US and the USSR which had kept the confrontation in Afghanistan alive has ended. If the Afghans on all sides do not come round to adopting a more conciliatory attitude, they will be isolated. Left to fight out their civil war on their own, the Afghan leadership will only prolong the people's misery.

Sri Lanka

Military Sources: PRC To Deliver New Gunboats

BK1708114891 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Three improved Chinese Shanghai glass gunboats fitted with 37 mm and 25 mm automatic cannon with a higher firing range and better range than the navy's existing guns are expected to be delivered to Sri Lanka by the end of this month. Military sources said the new boats will be faster, bigger, and more seaworthy, being equipped with stabilizers, than the navy's present fleet of six Shanghai-2 glass vessels which need to be retired shortly. The new boats are fitted with more modern version of the same caliber of guns on existing Shanghai-2 class boats, the sources said. The new guns will have autoloaders while the present weapons have to be manually loaded, the sources said. The navy's existing fleet of gunboats obtained in the early 1970s are aging and need to be replaced. They have been used extensively to provide naval gunfire support for army operations on land, the latest instance being in the amphibious landing during Operation Balawegaya, the multibrigade group offensive to relieve the siege of Elephant Pass.

Reportage on Situation Near Elephant Pass

Troops Consolidate Positions

BK1608114291 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] The security forces are now consolidating their positions over a 2-km area south and a km north of the Elephant Pass camp. The column from the beachhead to Elephant Pass is also being held by the troops and clearing operations are in progress. Wing Commander Mark Seneviratne attached to the operational headquarters of the Defense Ministry told newsmen yesterday that troops had recovered several weapons, destroyed a number of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] positions, and killed hundreds of LTTE cadres from the 7th to the 13th of this month. However, LTTE radio intercepts spoke of only 700 of their cadres as being killed. According to civilian witnesses, over 2,000 terrorists could have been killed. One thousand five hundred injured terrorists are receiving treatment in hospital in Jaffna. It has also been established that the seriously wounded terrorists have been killed by their colleagues on orders of the LTTE leadership. According to civilian sources, 130 terrorists have been blinded by blasts or fire.

Air Chief Marshal Walter Fernando said that bodies of security forces personnel handed over by the LTTE through the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] have been mutilated and were beyond recognition. He said that the Defense Ministry has requested

ICRC officials to be present when bodies of soldiers are handed over and the caskets opened, but even subsequently a Red Cross representative was not present.

The LTTE leadership has also given orders to execute the cadres who fled the Elephant Pass battle. School children in Jaffna have been compelled to donate blood for injured LTTE cadres on a weekly basis. Civilians who passed [words indistinct] are being forced to donate blood, while those between 18 and 35 years are forcibly conscripted to the LTTE ranks and the older men are taken as helpers.

LTTE Head Demoted After Defeat

BK1708115691 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Three LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were killed on Thursday [15 August] when trying to probe the defenses of the southern flank of the Elephant Pass. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the terrorists were ambushed by the alert Balawegaya troops. The sources said that consolidation of the new forward defense localities were continuing. Repairs were also being carried out to damaged buildings in the Elephant Pass camp. LTTE radio intercepts reveal that for the first time the LTTE's political wing cadres, including Moorthy and Yogi, were being pressed into service by the terrorist military wing to meet the acute manpower shortage as increasing numbers of northern youth turned their backs on the LTTE. There were also reports that the LTTE deputy leader, Mahattaya, has been demoted in rank following the humiliating defeat the terrorists suffered at Elephant Pass. The battle plans for the failed LTTE attack on the Elephant Pass camp were reportedly drawn out by Mahattaya. Meanwhile, Mani, an LTTE member leading a terrorist extortion cell in Sittankudi in Batticaloa South was killed by security forces along with two other terrorists.

The LTTE's failure to halt Operation Balawegaya has triggered off a wave of internal problems within the group which has led to the surrender of two Tiger cadres to the Army and 16 others committing suicide by swallowing cyanide, a senior military commander said yesterday. Major General Denzil Kobbekaduwa, who led a three-week-long army push to the besieged camp said the two LTTEers had surrendered to the Army following the routing of LTTE forces in the Elephant Pass operation. However, he declined to identify the terrorists who surrendered or give their whereabouts for security reasons. He also said a large number of LTTEers were ready to surrender to the Army. The LTTE lost about 2,000 cadres when it (?tried) to stop a massive Army push to save the Elephant Pass camp.

Military sources said at least 16 LTTEers had swallowed cyanide after the leadership refused to allow them to leave the organization. The suicides were reported from the east, sources said. Meanwhile, the security forces commander of Jaffna Peninsula, Brigadier Vijay Vimalaratne, yesterday held talks with army commander, Lieutenant General Hamilton Wanasinghe, about the ongoing security forces operations in the north.

32 LTTE 'Terrorists' Killed

BK1808120691 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] Thirty two terrorists were reported killed when the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] made an abortive attack on a Balawegaya task force picket line between (Fort Vakula) and Iyakachchi, northeast of the Elephant Pass security forces camp on Friday [16 August]. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the attack was an attempt to disrupt the Balawegaya supply lines between the (?beach sector) Vettilaikerny and Elephant Pass. The sources said the LTTE attack at 0930 [0400 GMT] on Friday morning was an organized one. The security forces also destroyed three LTTE bunkers at Mullaitivu. Three LTTE terrorists were ambushed by the security forces at Vantarumulai-Batticaloa South. The terrorists left behind an automatic rifle with 125 rounds of belted ammunition, audio cassettes with LTTE martial songs, a photo album of terrorists, and letters to relatives from LTTE cadres from Batticaloa fighting in Jaffna. The three terrorists, who were badly wounded, had left a trail of blood as they escaped on Friday night. Official sources also said essential food sent by the government through the ICRC [International Committee of Red Cross] for the people of the Jaffna peninsula is being plundered by the terrorists. Only those families, who have allowed their children to fight for the LTTE, are able to receive food rations.

Meanwhile, nine senior LTTE leaders have been confirmed killed while three have been seriously wounded in the fighting at the Elephant Pass.